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Houake injures 21 people in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — A strong earthquake early Monday injured 21 people in southern Iran, damaged houses and sent some panicked residents rushing into the streets, Iran's official news agency said. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said the earthquake struck at 1:50 a.m. (2220 GMT Sunday) and registered 6.5 on the Richter scale, a magnitude that can cause severe damage. The agency said 20 people were injured in Dashtestan, 70 kilometres northwest of Bushehr on the Gulf. It said another person was injured in the nearby village of Aashad and five houses were damaged in the village of Kalamah near the village of Aashad. The geophysics institute of Tehran University said the epicentre was 700 kilometres south of Tehran near the villages of Aashad and Kalamah northwest of Dashtestan. The quake was also felt in Bushehr, where panicked residents poured into the streets. A devastating June 21 earthquake centred near Rudbar, about 200 kilometres northwest of Tehran, killed 10,000 people.

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Franco-Iranian talks halted

PARIS (R) — Talks between France and Iran to resolve a long-standing financial dispute have been suspended with the return home of Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi, French officials said Monday. "The talks are not over. But they are effectively suspended because the Iranians who came here to negotiate went home last week without a date being set for a next round," a French official told reporters.

Sterile flies reach Libya

TUNIS (R) — About 3.5 million sterile male flies have arrived Libya as part of a U.S.-backed campaign to eradicate the screw-worm, a deadly flesh-eating parasite that threatens livestock throughout Africa. The flies are the first consignment to arrive from a joint U.S.-Mexican plant at Chiapa de Corso in Mexico. They reached Tripoli airport Sunday, the Libyan news agency JANA said Monday (see story on page 2).

Lebanon hopes for papal visit

VATICAN CITY (R) — Lebanon's new ambassador to the Vatican told Pope John Paul Monday he hoped the pontiff would visit his war-torn country soon. "We dare to hope, Your Holiness, that the desire that you have expressed so often to visit our country can be realised very soon," Ambassador Antoine Jemba said at a ceremony. "The Lebanese, all Lebanese, would welcome you in a climate of unity and rediscovered peace," he said. In his address to the ambassador the Pope made no reference to a visit. To make such a trip he would have to receive a formal invitation from Beirut.

Ortega: Iraq could withstand strike

MANAGUA (R) — Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said Sunday Iraq could hold up against a military strike and was likely to retaliate first against Israel and Saudi Arabia. Ortega told reporters that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and other Iraqi leaders feel sure that a massive air attack... would not destroy the offensive capacity of their country and that their counter-offensive action would be felt against Israel and Saudi Arabia. "The Sandinista leader, who said he had been to the Gulf to help promote peace on behalf of the Third World, met with Saddam during visits to Iraq Nov. 14-15 and Nov. 29 to Dec. 2."

De Malziere not not to join cabinet

BONN (AP) — Lothar de Malziere, who headed East Germany's short-lived democratic government, said Monday he would not be a member of United Germany's first government. De Malziere has repeatedly denied allegations that he worked for Stasi, the now-disbanded East German secret police. A deputy leader of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's governing Christian Democrats, he had been mentioned as a probable cabinet member. De Malziere announced the unexpected decision to reporters in Bonn after meeting with Kohl and Interior Minister Wolfgang Schauble. Schauble said Kohl would respect the decision.

Velayati in UAE

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrived Monday on the fourth leg of a Gulf tour that falls ahead of the annual summit of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Velayati postponed a weekend trip to the Soviet Union to conduct the GCC tour, beginning in Sunday in Qatar, the host for the summit starting next Saturday. He also visited Oman and Bahrain after Qatar. He returns home before a trip to Sweden starting Tuesday. He has been received by the leaders of each country to deliver messages from Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Assad, Badran discuss Gulf

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Prime Minister Mufarid Badran, seeking an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis deadlock, held talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus Monday. Badran, welcomed on arrival by Prime Minister Mahmoud Zoubi, Foreign Minister Farouq Sharara and senior officials, told reporters he was carrying a verbal message to Assad from His Majesty King Hussein.

He stressed the importance of "contacts and consultations among Arab countries which help bring closer viewpoints on various matters." He did not elaborate. A Jordanian minister in Amman speaking on condition of anonymity said that the purpose of Badran's visit was to discuss ways of achieving peace in the Gulf.

Another well-placed Jordanian official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press that Badran's

visit was part of a joint Jordanian-Algerian effort to bring Iraq and Saudi Arabia together for a negotiated settlement of the Gulf crisis.

Algeria has adopted a similar attitude to that of Jordan on the Gulf crisis.

Algerian President Chadli Benjedid toured Middle East capitals last week in an effort to mediate an inter-Arab settlement. In a period of six days he visited Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Oman, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt.

Benjedid was also expected to visit Saudi Arabia but the same diplomatic sources said he was informed by Saudi Arabia that his projected visit had been postponed.

Arab diplomatic sources said Benjedid's effort was directed at arranging a meeting between Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

The diplomatic sources said, however, that the Saudis made it

clear such a meeting could only come about after Iraq's complete withdrawal from Kuwait.

Another Arab diplomat stressed that Benjedid's mission had not failed and that it will "eventually lead to an Iraqi-Saudi meeting soon."

He said that Benjedid, who ended his regional tour, will "pay a private visit to Saudi Arabia sometime soon... so that his visit will not be interpreted as part of the peace mission."

A Syrian statement said Assad and Benjedid agreed in Damascus Sunday that a solution to the Gulf crisis could be achieved only through U.N. proposals. Benjedid did not fully agree with this in remarks made in Cairo Monday.

A Jordanian official quoted by Reuters said Badran would try to evaluate the outcome of the mission by Benjedid, a veteran Arab trouble-shooter.

Badran returned home later Monday.

Hope remains for Arab solution in Gulf — Benjedid

CAIRO (Agencies) — The presidents of Algeria and Egypt said Monday the Arabs have been unable to come up with concrete plans for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis but that some hope remains.

"We have no specific programme through which we can move towards a solution, but I believe there still are possibilities for a peaceful settlement," Algerian President Chadli Benjedid told news conference.

President Hosni Mubarak, his Egyptian host, stood at his side. Benjedid based the assessment on a tour that took him to Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Oman, Syria and Lebanon before Egypt. He flew to Libya from Egypt Monday.

An expected stop in Saudi Arabia was dropped, reportedly because the Saudis objected to apparent lack of flexibility by Iraq.

Benjedid said consultation with King Fahd in Saudi Arabia "is still on my programme." He added: "No date has been set, but this is my first tour... and I may meet with King Fahd in the

next few days or weeks." But he sidestepped a question on whether Iraq showed any willingness to withdraw from Kuwait.

He also disputed a reporter's suggestion that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein rejected talks with the United States, as proposed by President George Bush, because of a disagreement on dates.

"I do not believe there was a rejection of the dialogue," he said. "This is my personal decision."

On Sunday, an official Syrian statement, speaking after Benjedid met with President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus, pictured Benjedid as having given up on an Arab solution to the problem in favour of an international one. In the news conference, Benjedid disagreed.

He said he continues to favour Arab efforts, "which I hope would achieve something of a nucleus for a solution," but that there can be no "100 per cent Arab solution...."

"We must take into account international opinion and inter-

national resolutions."

He said the Palestinian problem remained "at the core" of regional unrest but that it should not be "organically linked" with the Gulf crisis as demanded by Iraq. Such linkage would be "illogical and unobjective," he added.

Benjedid characterised his tour as "merely an effort by Algeria to join the overall Arab and international efforts" to end peacefully the crisis.

The Algerian president conferred with Mubarak immediately after he arrived in Cairo Sunday night. They talked again Monday morning before Benjedid left.

In his remarks, Mubarak appeared to deny news reports that Benjedid carried a specific proposal to ease the crisis.

"There are no initiatives on the (Arab) scene as some people imagine," he said.

In reply to a question, he said: "To tell the truth, we have no method for a solution. We are

(Continued on page 4)

NATO demands pullout, approves EC-Aziz meeting

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — NATO foreign ministers closed ranks Monday behind Washington's hardline stance on the Gulf but approved of an Iraqi request for talks with the European Community (EC) to avert war.

Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis said Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz asked to see him in Rome later this week, although a dispute over dates had put on hold a proposed meeting with U.S. President George Bush.

The 16 NATO countries, which include 11 of the EC's 12 members, issued a tough statement on the Gulf rejecting any partial solutions to the crisis which erupted when Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 2.

But the NATO ministers gave their blessing to Iraqi talks with Italy, currently the EC president, and possible discussions involving U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The ministers said such talks should be used only to impress upon Iraq that it must withdraw from Kuwait immediately and unconditionally.

"Complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the sovereignty and legitimate government of Kuwait are unequivocal conditions for a peaceful solution. There can be no partial solutions," the statement said.

The ministers said they would resist any effort by Iraq to use the talks to delay meeting a Jan. 15 U.N. deadline authorising the use of force to drive it from

Kuwait. The statement was issued after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker met with his NATO counterparts to discuss the Gulf crisis.

While the allies said they hoped war could be averted in the Gulf, they reaffirmed their pledge to abide by all United Nations resolutions.

"The responsibility now lies with the government of Iraq to ensure peace by complying fully with the mandatory United Nations decisions," the statement said.

NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner opened Monday's ministerial meeting at the NATO headquarters.

"The solidarity of all allies and their determination to implement in full (United Nations) Security Council resolutions against Iraq remain firm," he added.

Italy's de Michelis told reporters Baker still wanted to meet with Saddam. He mentioned no date for such a meeting which Bush has said must occur by Jan. 3 at the latest. Baker, rejecting an Iraqi proposal for a Jan. 12 meeting in Baghdad, said Sunday he remained hopeful he can see Saddam by Jan. 3.

Italy currently holds the rotating EC presidency.

De Michelis said the EC will decide Tuesday whether to go ahead with the planned visit to Rome this week by Aziz.

In their statement, the NATO ministers said Aziz's meeting with de Michelis "can make a

contribution" to a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis.

Aziz's visit to Rome had initially been scheduled for this week, after a meeting between the Iraqi foreign minister and Bush in Washington on Monday. But the session with Bush was cancelled in a dispute over Baker's return visit to Baghdad.

Arriving for the NATO meeting, Baker said Saddam had still not offered an acceptable date for him to visit Baghdad.

"No, nothing new today," Baker said as he entered NATO headquarters. Officials said he remained willing to proceed with the talks, if the dispute over the dates could be resolved.

A senior Canadian official told reporters Baker complained to ministers that European allies were not doing enough to help the United States in the Gulf, although he did not repeat specific requests for aid and troops.

The official said several ministers had spoken out on the importance of the U.N. enforcing its will over Iraq if it was to stand any chance of operating effectively in future.

"If it does fail, the world will become even more unpredictable... it will be an awfully dark time," the official said.

Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark asserted Iraq was playing games by failing to offer a serious date and should stop trying to manipulate what might be its last chance to

(Continued on page 5)

War would hurt entire planet — King



PARIS (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein has warned that war in the Gulf would have devastating consequences around the globe.

"I believe no one is aware of what might happen if this area erupts in conflict... the human losses, the very deep wounds not only in the Arab World but for all Muslims and the rest of the world," he told French Television in an interview in Amman.

"We must be conscious of the economic shock which would affect the whole world, and the scale of the environmental disaster," he told the state-owned Antenne-2 network.

"The situation has been very tense but if war breaks out now, we will find ourselves on the edge of a precipice and no one knows what the outcome will be for the world."

King Hussein, who attempted to mediate between President Saddam Hussein and other Arab leaders after Iraq's takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2, said he hoped Baghdad and Washington would settle their

dispute over the dates of talks. "I hope the Americans are working for peace, towards a settlement of regional problems," he said. "The United States can, if it wants, do a lot for peace in this area. I hope they will."

Replying to a question, the King said:

"I am always an optimist and I hope that logic and reason will prevail and goodwill. But at the same time I am really concerned because of the two elements that are missing so far and one of them is the Arab-Arab dialogue which we tried to create, since the outset, between the concerned parties. But nothing has happened so far, and the other is a dialogue between the world as represented by the United States in this particular crisis and Iraq."

In reply to another question about the real intentions of the United States in the region, the King said:

"I had hoped that they are

concerned about the international legitimacy, and if that is the case then there is another problem that has been with us for 23 years with similar nature — a problem which requires the attention of the world in all its merits and that is the Israeli-Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli problem. I certainly hope that it will be demonstrated that the world is concerned to ensure that international legitimacy still applies everywhere. On the other hand, we have been working for years with Europe, with the rest of the world and trying to persuade the United States to accept the idea of an international conference under the auspices of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people to resolve this problem."

Israelis bar Palestinians from entering Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli forces blocked thousands of Palestinians from entering Jerusalem Monday and barred Palestinians from the historic mosques in the city's Haram Al Sharif complex.

The heightened measures were aimed at heading off clashes with Jewish extremists and to prevent protests over Israel's decision to expel four Palestinians from the occupied Gaza Strip.

Police denied a request by the Jewish extremist group "Temple Mount Faithful" to go to the Haram Al Sharif, but more than a dozen members of the group marched nearby with Israeli flags.

Tension over a planned march by the group helped set off the massacre of Oct. 8 in which over 20 Palestinians died in Israeli gunfire.

Students at the closed Bir Zeit University in the West Bank held a march and stoned police to protest the planned expulsion of four alleged members of the fundamentalist movement Hamas, Israel Radio reported.

Police dispersed the demonstration with tear-gas and rubber bullets and arrested four protesters, it said.

Policemen screened elderly Palestinians and women seeking to enter the two mosques in the Haram Al Sharif complex. Hundreds of young men were turned back at the heavily guarded gates of the mosque.

In a new leaflet on Monday, Hamas called on followers to go to Al Aqsa "to stand up against the provocations of extremists and government."

A delegation from the U.S. council of churches visited Muslim officials on the mosque to express solidarity with Palestinians.

Below the mosque, Gershon Salomon led some 25 followers into prayers at the Walling Wall while scores of policemen stood guard.

The zealots lit a candle-light at

the wall and marched under police escort outside the walls of the Old City.

Israel resurrected its controversial expulsion policy after a 16-month break to try to calm rising public anxiety about stabbing attacks on Jews since the Oct. 8 massacre.

Sixty Palestinians have been expelled in the three-year Palestinian uprising, but Israel stopped the practice in August 1989, reportedly under U.S. pressure.

The announcement of renewed expulsions drew immediate criticism from U.S. officials, who say that expelling people from the occupied territories violates international law.

The English-language Jerusalem Post reported Monday that Israeli officials viewed the U.S. objections as "pro forma."

However, Israeli officials and analysts expressed fears the expulsions orders would weaken

(Continued on page 4)

Iraq rejects American 'dictates'; Bush says deadline remains Jan. 15

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Monday it would not let the United States dictate the dates of their meetings on the Gulf crisis, insisted it would never give up Kuwait and alerted Baghdad residents to an air-raid blackout drill.

"We want peace, we want dialogue for peace, we respect legitimacy, we want to implement international law on the issues of our (Arab) Nation," said a statement after a joint meeting of the Revolutionary Command Council and the ruling Baath Party, chaired by President Saddam Hussein.

"But we reject capitulation and ridicule those who imagine we will capitulate."

"We refuse dates imposed by one party as the leader of the United States wants. We are committed to our rights as a

sovereign state...."

Iraq is locked in dispute with the United States over the dates for the U.S.-proposed talks.

In what diplomats said was a possible sign of progress, U.S. Charge d'Affaires Joseph Wilson met Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Nizar Hamdoun Monday to discuss dates.

The meeting, requested by the U.S. side, was the first for two days, the diplomats said.

A meeting between Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and President George Bush, tentatively set for Monday, was called off after the two sides failed to agree on when Secretary of State James Baker should visit Saddam in return.

The United States has suggested any day from Dec. 20 to Jan. 3 for the Bush-Aziz meeting but rejected Iraq's sole offer of

Jan. 12 as too near the United Nations' Jan. 15 deadline for Baghdad to quit Kuwait or face war.

"Our belief in Kuwait as part of Iraq is unshiftable and the fact that it is the 19th province is a fact that our people and the armed forces are dealing with as a great gain," the statement of the Iraqi leadership said.

It said Iraq wanted a uniform standard to apply on implementing all Security Council resolutions, including those on the Palestinian issue and Lebanon.

Bush said Monday he still hoped for talks with Iraq but warned that there would be no extension of the U.N. deadline giving Iraq until Jan. 15 to quit Kuwait or face war.

(Continued on page 5)

Soviet minister, Iraqis discuss contract penalties

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A Soviet envoy opened talks Monday with Iraqi officials on their breach of contract caused by the withdrawal of the 2,300 Soviet advisers.

A spokesman for the Soviet embassy in Baghdad said earlier that Iraq was refusing to let the experts leave until the dispute was resolved. Churkin said he had not received confirmation of this.

Most of the experts work in the oil industry, which has been crippled by the sanctions imposed by the United Nations since Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Vladimir Morozov, a deputy minister at the Soviet Foreign Economic Relations Ministry, was meeting with acting Oil Minister Hussein Kamel and De-

puty Prime Minister Sadoun Hamadi.

Another Soviet official, Sergei Araklyan, a deputy minister at the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Ministry, has been in Baghdad for more than three weeks to try to finalise an agreement on contracts in the oil and power generating fields.

"We would like to speed up the process... take the necessary measures in Baghdad," said Churkin in Moscow.

"All the questions concerning Soviets leaving Baghdad are being discussed by representatives of the Soviet government... the purpose of that mission is to discuss with the Iraqi side all the aspects of the stay of the Soviet experts in Iraq," he said.

Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council decided Dec. 1

that all the remaining Soviets can leave. But it demanded that the Soviet Union compensate Iraq for terminating their work contracts.

The Soviet Union welcomed the decision and said it was willing to pay compensation for breaking the contracts of the remaining Soviet workers.

However, sources say the Iraqis have not yet received an official pledge of payment from the Soviet Union and the two sides still have to agree on the amount and the payment schedule.

The Soviet diplomat would not say if Moscow is willing to pay the amount of compensation demanded by Iraq. Neither side has revealed the amount the Iraqis are requesting.

Qian explains why China did not back anti-Iraq resolution

BEIJING (AP) — China refused to support a U.N. resolution authorising military force against Iraq because of the world body's role in the Korean war. Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said in an article published Monday.

In an interview in the Communist Party newspaper People's Daily, Qian said China remains intent on finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

"I believe it could take longer to achieve a peaceful solution, but the losses would be less," Qian said.

China abstained in the Nov. 29 Security Council vote approving a resolution sanctioning military action if Iraqi troops did not withdraw from Kuwait by Jan. 15.

By choosing not to exercise its veto power as a permanent council member, China allowed the resolution to pass with its abstention. The resolution passed by a 12-2 margin, with only Cuba and Yemen voting against it.

Qian said China abstained in the vote "to make the international community continue to work for a peaceful solution."

China had previously voted in favour of all the other U.N. resolutions — including a trade embargo — aimed at putting

international pressure on Baghdad to withdraw from Kuwait.

"But we could not approve the proposal for some countries to take up arms and use military means under U.N. authority," Qian said. "On this issue, we have a historical responsibility. The Korean war launched in the name of the United Nations remains fresh in the minds of the Chinese people."

Chinese officials have made similar comments in private talks with foreign diplomats in Beijing, but this was the first time they publicly compared the Korean war and military action against Iraq.

Chinese troops intervened to support communist North Korea in the 1950-53 Korean war after U.S.-led U.N. forces pushed back the invading North Koreans from South Korea and advanced towards the Chinese-North Korean border.

Qian said he had told Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in a meeting in early November, "there is no nation in the world, including Iraq's friends, that can accept the actions of Aug. 2," when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

China long has had close ties with Iraq, and sold millions of dollars worth of arms to Baghdad during the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war. China also sold weapons to



Qian Qichen

Iran. China established diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia shortly before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Qian said China's broad ties with the Arab World further prompted it to advocate a peaceful solution.

The People's Daily interview reflects a new, higher profile for Qian that has resulted from his role in international talks on the Gulf crisis.

There have been reports in the Hong Kong Press that Qian, foreign minister since 1988, will be appointed a vice premier at a nine-day meeting of the standing committee of the National People's Congress that begins Thursday.

China and Sri Lanka said Monday that a war in the Gulf could have catastrophic consequences.

Chinese Premier Li Peng and Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, who held talks in Colombo, stressed the need for a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis, spokesman said.

Iraqi envoy says no concessions before talks

PARIS (Agencies) — Iraq will make no concessions regarding the Gulf crisis before negotiations take place, Iraq's ambassador to France said Monday. He also said war would drive oil prices up to \$100 a barrel.

Ambassador Abdul Razak Al Hashimi, addressing a conference on oil issues, said Iraq rejects the United Nations resolution calling for withdrawal of its troops from Kuwait. Iraq will "wait and see" what happens when the Jan. 15 deadline arrives, he said.

The U.N. Security Council has called for the unilateral withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait by Jan. 15.

There will be "no concessions before we have negotiations," Hashimi said. He spoke at a conference organised by the Franco-Arab Chamber of Commerce on the impact of the Gulf crisis on the oil market.

U.S. President George Bush has the ability to start a war, "but ending it will not be his decision," Hashimi said. "Iraq has the capability to make everybody pay a heavy price."

The ambassador stressed that Iraq does not want a war because it will be a "disaster" for all parties.

However, he said that if the United States decides to launch military action, "Iraq will have

to be the spoiler of U.S. long-term strategies" to control the Gulf region and its oil resources.

"Those who think war will be fast and swift are committing a big mistake ... we will not be destroyed alone..."

"If war breaks out in the region, every industrial and oil installation is going to be destroyed in the Gulf," Hashimi said. "Iraq is capable of doing that, but we don't want that to happen."

He said Iraq wanted to negotiate a peaceful settlement, but Washington must let Baghdad decide when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker would meet President Saddam Hussein.

Bush has rejected the date of Jan. 12 proposed by Baghdad as too close to the Jan. 15 U.N. deadline.

In the event of war, Hashimi said, "Europe is going to be the loser. The U.S. is controlling oil and oil will go to \$100 a barrel and no one can do anything about it."

He justified Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on economic grounds.

"You know what the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait did to the markets. When oil prices went to \$11 a barrel, Iraq lost \$7 billion a year," he said. "Iraq moved in (to Kuwait) because it was defending its natural interests."

Abu Abbas says group ready to hit U.S. targets

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The leader of a Palestinian group said special squads have been prepared to strike American targets worldwide if war breaks out in the Gulf, an Iraqi newspaper reported Monday.

Mohammad Abbas, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), told the Al Jumbouriya newspaper that Western and American targets have already been selected for attack once the war starts in the Gulf.

"If war flares up it will not go the same direction as planned by the American administration. The United States does not have the final decision to confine it to a limited area," he said.

Abbas, who is also known as Abu Abbas, is the leader of the Baghdad-based Palestinian group that hijacked the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro in October 1985.

"The striking Palestinian

groups have selected their targets among American and Western interests worldwide which will be attacked once the American aggression against Iraq takes place," Abu Abbas told the newspaper.

"Our national forces have been prepared to wage a war which would defeat the enemy and gain victory for all Arabs," he added.

It was the second threat against U.S. interests by Abu Abbas since Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2. The first was in September.

Abu Abbas said other Arab nationalist forces apart from the Palestinians were prepared "to enter the battle."

"The Americans understand only the language of war. We have to act on the basis that the (U.S.) aggression will take place at any moment."

Peace group: Armies will attack 'over dead bodies'

BAGHDAD (R) — Peace activists from several countries are preparing to pitch camp in the Iraqi desert between opposing armies in the Gulf crisis, vowing that either side will only go to war "over our dead bodies."

An advance party from the Gulf peace team has bought tents, food, water purification tablets and cooking gear — as well as volleyballs, chess and backgammon sets and playing cards to pass the time.

But campaigners more accustomed to sitting down in front of trucks than tanks don't see their camp as a game.

"We are so dismayed at the catastrophe of war in the Middle East, which might even turn into a world war with nuclear weapons, that we say 'if you proceed, do it over our dead bodies,'" said veteran British activist Pat Arrowsmith.

"You would have to be stupid not to think that it might come to that."

Organisers expect several hundred people from around a dozen countries to stay at the camp at one time or another.

Iraqi authorities have allocated a site two kilometres from the Saudi border, in the Arar region southwest of Baghdad.

The site, originally built for pilgrims headed for Mecca, is on the border between Iraq and Saudi Arabia more than 500 kilometres west of Kuwait.

Arrowsmith, who visited the site Friday, said she saw Iraqi preparations for war. She said the Iraqis had told them troops from the multinational side were 15 kilometres away.

She said they did not ask to pitch camp in Kuwait, which Iraq invaded on Aug. 2, "since that could be interpreted as condoning the occupation."

The group, in a policy statement, distances itself from all parties in the dispute. "none of whom we consider blameless." It deplores "any human rights violations that have already occurred in the area" and urges an end to them.

Arrowsmith refused to be drawn into comment about widespread reports of alleged Iraqi atrocities in Kuwait.

Iranians unveil gunboat

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's armed forces continued manoeuvres in the Gulf Monday and for the first time unveiled a locally built radar-equipped gunboat with guided missiles, Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast gave few details of the new gunboat, named "Asad."

It was built by the Islamic Republic Guards Corps (IRGC) and equipped with a "powerful radar and is able to guide its fire," the radio said.

The Iranians have been trying for years to develop their own guided missiles.

But weapons-industry analysts said the gunboat was probably equipped with modified versions of existing Iranian or Chinese systems the Iranians already had.

There were unconfirmed reports earlier this year that the Iranians had adapted land-to-sea anti-ship missiles for sea-borne use.

The IRGC has its own naval, air force and military wings, as well as a weapons industry, apart from Iran's regular armed forces.

The air-sea exercises, code-named "Pirooz 1," cover 30,000 square kilometres in the southern Gulf, the Sea of Oman and the Northern Indian Ocean.

The war games, launched Wednesday, will last until Dec. 25, the radio said.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) last month quoted Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani, who heads the navy, as saying the manoeuvres would be the biggest ever launched by the Iranian armed forces.

Advanced MIG 29 fighter-bombers, recently purchased from the Soviet Union, were used in Monday's manoeuvres, the radio said.

A radical Iranian daily Sunday denounced the U.S.-led buildup of forces sent to the Gulf after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, and said Iran's military exercises were meant to meet "any unpredictable incident."

The Farsi-language Jomhuri Islami said that "Muslims are duty-bound to enhance their military capabilities and combat power to meet any unpredictable incident which would threaten their independence and territorial integrity."

Referring to the U.S.-led military buildup, the daily said that "the Persian Gulf and the Islamic lands are witnessing the largest military expedition ever of the enemies of Islam since the crusade."

The Iranians have condemned the occupation of Kuwait. But they have also deplored the multinational military presence. They have insisted the problem must be solved by the regional states.

The radio said that "the unity, cooperation and coordination of the IRGC's naval forces and the navy, were impressive than anything else."

One of the main goals of the exercises is to gradually merge the IRGC and the regular armed forces, a move the Revolutionary Guards are known to oppose.

The IRGC began as an ideological sound force after the 1979 Islamic revolution as a counterweight to the army inherited from monarch Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

The Revolutionary Guards were constantly at odds with the regular armed forces during the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

UAE rewards Moscow with food

NICOSIA (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) said Sunday it will send food to the Soviet Union. Gulf News Agency, received in Cyprus, said UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan ordered urgent food aid to the Soviet Union in return for its "firm principled stands on various Arab issues." Moscow has supported U.N. Security Council demands that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait. Iraq announced Sunday that it had offered the Soviet Union 500 tonnes of dates as a gift from the Iraqi people. Iraq, a major date producer, cannot export products due to a United Nations trade embargo.

AIDS a serious problem in Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — The number of AIDS cases in Sudan has increased twentyfold in three years and the disease has become a serious problem, the government said. State-controlled Radio Omdurman quoted acting Health Minister Hussein Abu Salih as saying the number of people suffering from acquired immune deficiency syndrome had risen to 534 from 23 in 1987. He did not say how many people had died of the disease, which destroys the body's immune system. It is spread in Sudan mainly by heterosexual contact. Salih told a cabinet meeting that most of Sudan's AIDS cases were people who had entered the country from neighbouring Uganda and Ethiopia, apparently meaning refugees. He urged religious leaders, teachers, and the media to spread the word that AIDS was dangerous and to tell people how to avoid it. Refugees should be priority targets of an AIDS education campaign, he said.

Filipino medical team arrives in S. Arabia

NICOSIA (R) — A medical team of 275 Filipino volunteers has arrived in Saudi Arabia to back up medical services in the kingdom during the Gulf crisis, the Saudi Press Agency reported. The agency said the team arrived Sunday. Philippines President Corason Aquino said Saturday her country was sending the team — made up of doctors, nurses and paramedics — in friendship with Saudi Arabia which had asked for help.

Belgian politicians visit Libya

BRUSSELS (R) — Two leading Belgian politicians flew to Libya Monday to seek the release of four Belgians kidnapped by Palestinian guerrillas in 1987 and now held in Lebanon. Jaak Gabriels, president of the Volksunie, one of the five parties in Belgium's centre-left coalition government, left Zaventem airport with Senator Hans de Belder for talks with senior Libyan officials. Gabriels was quoted by the Belgian news agency as saying it was "encouraging" that Libya was prepared to discuss the release of the hostages, as Tripoli had never before acknowledged any direct or indirect implication in the affair. Emmanuel Houtekins, his wife Godelieve and their children Valerie, 18, and Laurent, 19, were kidnapped by the Fateh Revolutionary Council (FRC), led by Abu Nidal, in November 1987 from a yacht called Silco in the Eastern Mediterranean. Fernand Houtekins, Emmanuel's brother, and his French companion Jacqueline Valente, who were also taken hostage from the yacht, were freed in April together with their daughter born in captivity, after an appeal by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Pakistan reinforces Gulf troops

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan began sending 3,000 more troops to Saudi Arabia Monday, dispelling doubt about its commitment to supporting Saudi Arabia against Iraq. The first infantry soldiers left aboard a Saudi Arabian jetliner and the rest will follow over the next two days, a military spokesman said. "They are going with their personal weapons and equipment. They will get their heavy weapons over there," he said. After sending 2,000 of the 5,000 soldiers pledged to Saudi Arabia in early September, Pakistan delayed sending the rest amid reports of high-level differences over its Gulf policy. The sending of troops to Saudi Arabia has been criticised here as helping the United States, which is spearheading international efforts to oust Iraq from Kuwait, at a time when Washington has suspended aid over fears about Islamabad's nuclear programme. Pakistan is still talking with Saudi Arabia about further troop reinforcements, the spokesman said. The country has been badly affected by the Gulf crisis raising oil prices and the loss of remittances from Pakistanis who used to work in Kuwait and Iraq.

British dependents advised to leave Gulf

LONDON (R) — The Foreign Office Monday advised British women and children in Bahrain, Qatar and parts of Saudi Arabia to leave before the Jan. 15 U.N. deadline for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. But a Foreign Office spokesman said the announcement was not linked to the weekend's failure of moves towards negotiations between the United States and Iraq. "This is simple common sense and does not imply any worsening of the situation in the last few days," he said. U.N. Security Council Resolution 678 says Iraq must leave Kuwait by the deadline or face the threat of military action from the U.S.-led multinational force massing in the Gulf. The Foreign Office advice applies to around 10,400 British women and children in Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province and the cities of Riyadh and Tabuk, said the spokesman. He said it was not considered necessary yet to advise those in employment, even those in non-essential jobs, to leave. Foreign Office advice to visitors remained unchanged, he said. "Tourists should not visit the area, but those who have necessary business to conduct should not be deterred. They should register their arrival with the closest British diplomatic mission and should tell the mission how long they expect to stay." According to the Foreign Office there are 1,750 Britons in Bahrain, including 3,000 women and children, 2,800 in Qatar, 1,500 of them women and children and 7,000 in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province, including 3,000 women and children. Riyadh and Tabuk have 6780 Britons, among them 2,900 women and children.

Libyan shepherds, children trained against deadly pest

By Neila Sammakia
The Associated Press

TRIPOLI — Shepherding families in northwestern Libya are being told that if they see a shoebox-sized container fall unopened from the sky, open it. It might help save their flocks as well as Northern Africa's livestock industry.

That advice is part of a publicity campaign to lay ground for a \$100 million international effort to eradicate deadly screwworm flies from more than 20,000 square kilometres of western Libya.

In the test phase beginning this month, boxes containing 3.5 million sterile screwworm flies are to be dropped once a week for eight weeks from Libyan aircraft contracted by the United Nations.

The idea is for the harmless insects, sterilised in Mexico with technology developed in the United States, to mate with the screwworm flies already in the area. Sterile matings produce no offspring. After a review of the initial eight weeks, the full effort is scheduled to start next February. Then, 100 million sterile flies will be dropped every week.

The boxes are designed to open on impact with the air, releasing the sterile, harmless flies. But some may land unopened, and that's where the information campaign comes in.

"We need to inform the people," said Furat Drity, the campaign's Tunisian director. "They have to accept that the boxes are safe. We ask the farmers and the children to open any closed boxes, not to be afraid of them."

Television spots and leaflets carrying messages in simple words and sketches advise people what to do during and after aerial releases.

It's a "high-tech biological control system that's environment-friendly," said Hilmi Toros, spokesman for the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rome. The FAO is organising the project along with the U.N. Development Programme and other agencies.

In its first appearance outside the Americas, the screwworm was discovered in Libya two years ago, probably imported in meat or live animals from Latin America.

The flesh-eating pest develops after a screwworm fly lays its eggs in a wound as small as a tick bite on any warm-blooded animal, including humans. The larvae burrow in, and as the wound enlarges the small attracts other females. The animal can die within days.

Toros said the eradication technique seeks to introduce into an area 10 sterile males for every local female. Because the female screwworm fly mates only once in a lifetime of three to six weeks, matings with sterile males eventually eliminate the potentially disastrous infestation.

The programme now has been held up because of bureaucracy, a slow response from nations to provide money, and an initial refusal by the United States to deal with Libya. Toros said \$30 million has been pledged of the programme's \$100 million cost.

Despite the programme's four-month delay, project director Dan Lindquist said the infested area has been restricted to northern Libya. It's been done largely by the people in the area.

Many of the shepherds targeted in the propaganda campaign are illiterate. But

together with Libyan veterinarians they've helped contain the screwworm's spread by regularly checking their animals and quickly treating wounds.

Lindquist said the number of infected animals increased over the past year by 8,000 to 12,000 cases.

The infested zone starts about 10 kilometres east of the Tunisian border and runs past Tripoli along the Mediterranean coast for 360 kilometres. The zone reaches 50 to 100 kilometres inland.

Lindquist said officials are not immediately concerned about an eastward spread of the screwworm because of the harsh environment it would have to cross. But they are concerned about a westward migration to Tunisia.

The technology using sterile flies was developed and used successfully in the United States to eradicate the fly and head off a devastating infestation of livestock in the American southwest and Mexico three decades ago.

The U.S. Agriculture Department said last week that the shipment of 3.5 million sterilised screwworm flies would be delivered to Libya this weekend.

James W. Glosser, administrator of the department's animal and plant health inspection services, said the sale of the flies to FAO "culminates more than year of negotiations" with the U.N. agency and Mexico.

"We recognise the sensitivity of ventures with Libya, but we also recognise the importance of preventing the spread of screwworms from Libya," Glosser said. "Our goal is to help protect livestock, wildlife and human health in southern Europe and Africa from this devastating pest."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 771111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
15:50 News Summary
16:10 Local programme
16:45 Programme review
16:50 News in Arabic
16:55 Arabic series
17:10 Programme review
17:15 Local programme
17:20 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:30 Cartoons
18:10 L'ecole des fairs
19:30 News in French
19:45 Carnet de Notes
19:50 News in Hebrew
19:55 News in Arabic
20:30 Charles in Charge
21:10 Documentary "Assignment"
22:00 News in English
22:30 French feature film

PRAYER TIMES

05:02 Fajr
05:25 (Sunrise) Dhul
11:32 Dhul
14:16 'Asr
16:39 Maghrib
18:02 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swedish Tel. 810740.
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785, 685326.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Assumption Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622666
Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 626543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 715261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assam International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy and winds will be westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 6:17
Aqaba 12:24
Dahab 4:20
Jordan Valley 11:23

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 16, Aqaba 23. Humidity readings: Amman 65 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Isam Al Azmer 890050
Dr. Dawad Al Samhouri 699535
Dr. Ibrahim Abu Hamid 677436
Dr. Khalid Al Khashab 625919
First pharmacy 661912
Folklore pharmacy 783336
Al Aqaba pharmacy 637055
Nawrokh pharmacy 626672
Al Saleh pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shawcort pharmacy 637660

AMMAN:

Dr. Dr. Adel Hattamieh (—)
Al Shams pharmacy (985238)

AMMAN:

Dr. Hisham Al Shurabi (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence immediate
Rescue 630441
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 636321
Hotel Complaints 602800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

AMMAN Municipality

Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010290
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan

Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 64281/62
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Madineh, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Stomach 66171/4
Shawcort Hospital 669131
University Hospital 84545
Al-Manshar Hospital 667227/9
Amal Hospital 66127/37
The Islamic, Abdali 64164/6
Al-Abdi, Abdali 77101/2
Infesa, Al-Maharraq 77101/2
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26
Army, Marfa 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)883323
Zarqa Maternity Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

DEPARTURES

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275355
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725
Ras Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)3200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
05:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:15 London, Munich (RJ)
10:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:30 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
12

Seminar tackles children's safety

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday opens at Amman Plaza a national seminar on children's safety at home, which the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's health communications project is organising in cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

The two-day seminar will seek to develop a comprehensive national programme that will coordinate the efforts of all the institutions and organisations engaged in, or concerned about the safety of children at home.

Working papers will highlight the urgency of adopting the prevention of children's injuries as a basic component of primary health care in Jordan and the need to gather information on children's injuries in general, and those occurring while at home in particular, in a bid to establish an integrated data system linked to all the agencies that deal with their injuries, such as hospitals, health centres, public security, and civil defence organisations, and statistics and research establishments.

American anti-war activist finally gets visa to Iraq

By Debbie Lovatt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After waiting patiently in Amman for a visa to Iraq for two and a half months, William Brown, an American Vietnam veteran, left for Baghdad Monday to pursue his one-man mission of speaking out against war.

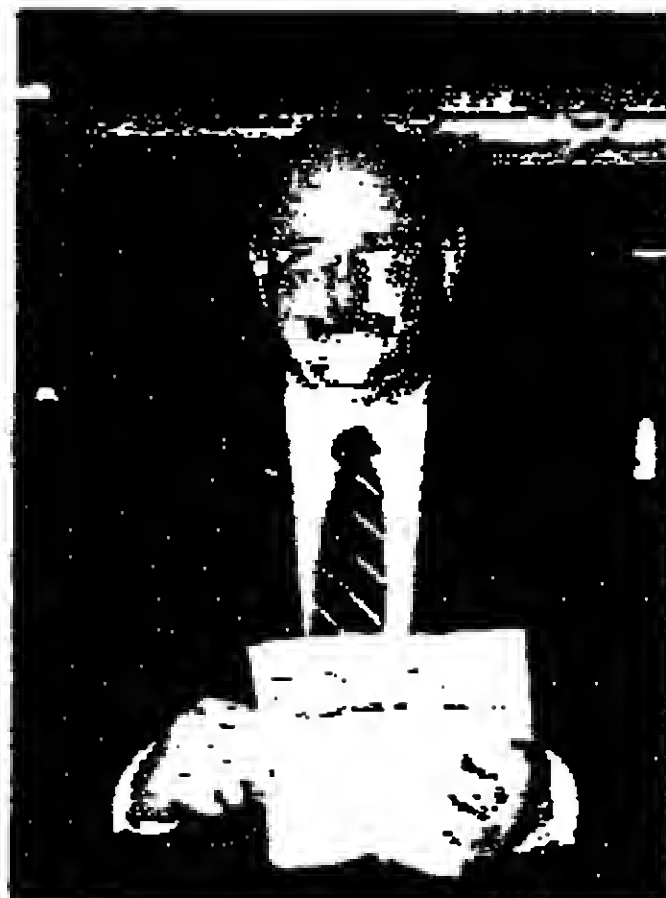
A down-to-earth family man who was discharged from the army on medical grounds, the 38-year-old busy truck-driver from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, hopes to meet Iraqi President Saddam Hussein whilst in Baghdad. He is not a pacifist since he believes "in fighting for what you believe in."

"I am fighting U.S. President George Bush; mine is a war against war," said Brown just before he left. "It is not the politicians who go to war and it is not their children who get killed. It is people like me, the common people, the ones who have no voice," said Brown in explaining why he was going to Baghdad.

Throughout his ten-week stay in Amman, Brown has seen many peace delegations pass through the country, but had his visa application continually turned down until pressure from friends and officials in Jordan became too much for the visa-issuing powers a few days ago and they relented.

There seems to be no reason behind the trouble Brown has had obtaining a visa except "if you're a part of a group you have no real identity, but if you're on your own everything is focused on you as an individual." Another reason for the problem Brown had in getting a visa may have been that he was "not just requesting a visa but also an audience with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on the same application."

At the airport Monday Brown was reluctant to talk to journalists. "I didn't come here to get



William Brown

my name in the papers," he said, "and I haven't done anything yet. All I've been doing is waiting for my visa."

During his prolonged wait in Jordan, Brown took part in several marches and rallies in solidarity with Iraq and in sympathy with the Iraqi people who, he knows, will be the only ones really affected by the U.N.-imposed blockade on the country.

Church team leaves

A delegation comprising eight leaders of American churches representing 42 million Americans also left for Iraq Monday. The delegation came together following a meeting of the National Council of Churches of Christ which was held in November in Portland, Oregon.

The church leaders are on a peace mission and feel strongly that the Gulf crisis should be solved in an Arab-Arab forum and that Jordan should be allowed to play a major role.

Other two American church delegations are visiting the region. One is in Israel and the other is visiting Lebanon and Syria.



Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah and Japan's ambassador to Jordan Tadayuki Nonoyama Monday sign loan memorandum (Petra photo)

Japan grants \$83 m loan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Japanese government is granting Jordan \$83 million in what was described by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as a corrective loan for industry and trade, according to memoranda signed here Monday.

The Ministry of Planning, where the signing ceremony took place, said in a statement that the loan would help finance Jordan's imports of commodities and services in conjunction with the World Bank which had earlier supplied Jordan with a "corrective loan" totalling \$150 million approved in 1989.

According to the statement, the Japanese loan will serve as part of the Japanese govern-

ment's contribution towards backing the Kingdom's 1991 fiscal budget.

Last month Japan announced it was offering Jordan a \$100 million loan as part of its assistance to the Kingdom to help it purchase various commodities and to help it overcome severe economic losses sustained as a result of the situation in the Gulf region.

That loan carries a one per cent annual interest, and is repayable over 30 years, including a grace period of 10 years.

Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah and Japan's Ambassador to Jordan Tadayuki Nonoyama signed the memorandum.

Hourani thanks King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received a cable from the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Cultural Department head and member of the Executive Committee Abdullah Hourani. Hourani thanked the King for patronising the Jordanian-Palestinian cultural week which concluded in Amman Saturday.

Population committee endorses health plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Population Committee (NPC) held a meeting under the chairmanship of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and endorsed a national health programme concerning birth spacing prepared by the committee's general secretary.

According to the committee's Secretary Dr. Mohammad Abdul Hadi Al Akel, the programme aims at safeguarding child and mother health, benefiting from Jordan's experiments over the past decades in the fields of health and education, and in the light of the socio-economic achievements in the Kingdom.

The committee's programme gives due attention to mother and child care with stress on birth spacing and breast feeding. "Such a programme is to be considered as the first step towards moving on towards a general population policy which will embody all matters related to all sectors of population and take into consideration the social and national dimensions," said

Al Akel in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He said that the health programme, to be implemented under the committee's supervision, will be carried out through cultural and media messages quoting verses of the Holy Koran.

The cultural programmes, he said, will be carried out in cooperation with health centres, the Royal Medical Services, the Jordan University Hospital, private health clinics and non-governmental institutions.

The population committee, which is chaired by Minister of Labour Qaseem Obaidat, groups secretaries-general of the ministries of planning, awqaf and Islamic affairs, information, education and health in addition to the directors-general of the departments of passports and civil registration, statistics, the Armed Forces, universities, the General Federation of Jordanian Women and Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF). Princess Basma is chairperson of the QAF's board of trustees.

House discusses regional issues, endorses amendments

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper House of Parliament held a session Monday to review the general situation in the Gulf and the occupied Arab territories and Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem presented detailed statements to the House dealing with Jordan's stand with regard to the two issues.

"The House was also briefed on His Majesty King Hussein's endeavours, at the Arab and international levels, to achieve a political settlement to the Gulf crisis," said House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, after the meeting.

"The House emphasised the need for dispatching popular delegations to Arab and Islamic nations and friendly countries to rally support for Jordan's call for peace and an Arab-Arab dialogue," said Lawzi.

The House members discussed the principles of the Jordanian political stand with regard to the Gulf issue, and the current events in the occupied Arab territories, according to Lawzi. He said that the House members voiced their full backing of His Majesty King Hussein's appeal to various nations to help open an Arab-Arab dialogue which aims at safeguarding Arab interests and dignity.

At the outset of the session the House endorsed amendments to laws on income tax, residence and aliens affairs, state-owned land, the martyrs of the armed forces' fund, and the orphans' fund.

The speakers at Monday's session included Mohammad Rasool Keilani, Hamad Al Farhan, Isma' Al Farhan, Amin Shuqair, Ali Abu Nowar and Ahmad Obaidat.

Obaidat, a former prime minister and chairman of Royal Commission entrusted with preparing the national charter, said in a statement that "unless the Arabs find a solution for the problem, the matter will be left for the United States and world Zionism, and the Arab Nation will be the loser."

He blamed the Arab leaders supporting the U.S.-led military presence in the Gulf, saying that they have deserted the "battlefield" of the Palestinian struggle for liberation and that they have "allowed the massacres against Palestinians to take place."

Zaki described the protest as a message to Jerusalem that the indigenous Palestinian inhabitants were not alone in their fight, and that the PCD-Jerusalem should expand to all Arab countries. He said that the Arab masses, regardless of their leaders' official policies, would be active under such a committee that would help fight for Jerusalem to remain with its Arab Islamic and Christian identity.

Tayseer Zibri, secretary-general of the Jordanian Popular Democratic Unity Party, described the protest as "evidence that Jordanians and Palestinians will never accept the Judaisation of Jerusalem and a shout against the Shamir schemes which contradict international law."

Speaking to the crowd, Zibri said that PCD-Jerusalem was

Italian envoy stresses his country's condemnation of Israeli practices

AMMAN (J.T.) — Italian Ambassador here Francesco de Courten Monday voiced his country's total condemnation of Israel's illegal practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories and said that the European Community (EC) countries strongly oppose Israeli authorities' demolition of Arab homes, deportation of Palestinians, arrests and restrictions of the Palestinians' movements.

Emphasising the importance of the EC's declaration passed by the community members in Rome Saturday, de Courten said it covered the Arab-Israeli crisis, the Gulf problem and Lebanon, but he noted that this was not the first time the community discussed and took decisions concerning these issues.

The leaders of the European Community ended a two-day summit in the Italian capital with a call on Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait, and a reaffirmation of support for an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In his statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the Italian ambassador said the European Community called on Israel to conform to the will of the international community by implementing Security Council resolutions concerning the protection of the civilian population under occupation.

He said that the EC was determined to provide all possible help to the Palestinians in the occupied Arab lands.

"We also support the idea of an international conference to bring about peace in the region, to be held under United Nations auspices and with the participation of all the concerned parties including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and at the appropriate time," Courten said.

He said that by "appropriate time" the community meant that ways had to be found for such a conference since "preparations for it are not an easy task."

In reply to a question on whether Israel would respond favourably to the EC calls, he said that the Israeli position vis-a-vis the resolutions was known to be negative. But he expressed hope that this position would change in the future.

De Courten said that the Italian foreign minister had been quoted as saying in recent statements that Israel might find itself to be facing measures designed to isolate it from the rest of the world community if it continued to pursue its present policies in the region.

De Courten said the EC had emphasised its willingness to activate and promote the Euro-Arab dialogue which, he said, is bound to help promote bilateral relations.

Referring to the Gulf issue, de Courten said that the EC supported a dialogue between Washington and Baghdad to reach a solution to the Gulf crisis and he expressed hope that the two sides would come to an agreement on a date for starting

the dialogue. De Courten said that the Italian and Iraqi foreign ministers would meet within or outside the framework of the American-Iraqi dialogue. "It is hoped that the Arab countries for this part will pursue their efforts to play a leading role in finding a settlement of the Gulf crisis," said Courten.

The ambassador added that there were good indicators "leading everyone to believe that there will be a political solution to the crisis because everyone aspires to have peace and no one wants to see a devastating war."

But he stressed that finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis could by no means settle all the region's outstanding problems. A new world order, he said, should take into consideration the areas of the Gulf and the Mediterranean and that there should be a standing conference on security and cooperation in these regions along the lines of the Helsinki Conference.

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Sit-in to protest Israeli practices continues

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A sit-in at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) office continued for a second day Monday to protest the Israeli measures against Palestinians in the occupied territories and Israeli attempts to desecrate Islamic and Christian holy places and turning Jerusalem into a Jewish city.

Around 300 men and mostly women staged the sit-in, organised by the newly-formed Popular Committee for the Defence of Jerusalem (PCD-Jerusalem), for six hours as they listened to short speeches by political leaders and sang nationalist songs.

Jordanian and Palestinian flags and placards covered the entrance of the UNDP. "No to the Judaisation of the Islamic and Christian holy place," "Jerusalem is eternally Arab," and "the presence of foreign military forces in the Gulf is support to the Zionist occupation," read some of the banners.

Addressing the protesters, Abbas Zaki of the Central Committee of Fateh of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), warned that the harsher the Israeli measures against Palestinians, the more persistent and determined the Palestinian reaction will be.

"The determination to continue their struggle will persist stronger as Israel tries to brutalise and deport Palestinians from their homes," Zaki said through the loudspeaker.

He blamed the Arab leaders supporting the U.S.-led military presence in the Gulf, saying that they have deserted the "battlefield" of the Palestinian struggle for liberation and that they have "allowed the massacres against Palestinians to take place."

Zaki described the protest as a message to Jerusalem that the indigenous Palestinian inhabitants were not alone in their fight, and that the PCD-Jerusalem should expand to all Arab countries. He said that the Arab masses, regardless of their leaders' official policies, would be active under such a committee that would help fight for Jerusalem to remain with its Arab Islamic and Christian identity.

Tayseer Zibri, secretary-general of the Jordanian Popular Democratic Unity Party, described the protest as "evidence that Jordanians and Palestinians will never accept the Judaisation of Jerusalem and a shout against the Shamir schemes which contradict international law."

Speaking to the crowd, Zibri said that PCD-Jerusalem was



A group of young people Monday protest Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories in front of the UNDP office in Amman (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

founded because of "Arab impotency." He added that the deportation of Palestinians would not stop the Palestinian struggle, "no matter what the sacrifices are."

He commended statements made by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, which was broadcast Sunday, that "if oil is the dearest to you, then we want to tell you that Jerusalem is dearest to us."

Also addressing the protesters was Zaria Deputy Bassam Haddadin, from the Democratic Bloc in Parliament, who said that the protest was a message for the world that Jordan was united in its position on Jerusalem.

"The world should know that all of us — Jordanians, Palestinians, Christians and Muslims alike — are prepared to defend Jerusalem as an Arab Palestinian city," Haddadin said.

He called on similar activities and protests to take place in all Arab and Muslim countries to "insist on retaining the proper identity of Jerusalem."

Adnan Hussein, a member of the PCD-Jerusalem, said that those who give up Jerusalem are giving up on Palestine.

"Jerusalem is ours and will continue to be ours — Arab in its culture and heritage — despite all conspiracies. This identity cannot be obliterated as long as Palestinian children are being born and their blood sacrificed," Hussein said.

PCD-Jerusalem delivered an appeal to the secretary-general of the U.N. and to the president of the General Assembly, calling on immediate action by the U.N. to force Israel into abiding by Security Council resolutions relating to Jerusalem and Palestine.

The committee called on the U.N. and the Security Council to impose mandatory sanctions on Israel as a means of implementing the international resolutions giving Palestinians their right to an independent state in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem.

"Recent signs of an intended Israeli escalation of the use of force in the occupied territories, against the people and the land, and the imminent Israeli plans to violate the sanctity of the holy place through such fanatic organisations like the so-called Temple Mount Faithful, and the declared intention of the Israeli government to resume its policy of expelling Palestinians from the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, in blatant violation of the Geneva Convention, requires immediate action by the Security Council and the General Assembly of the U.N. to use all effective measures at its disposal, including the application of mandatory sanctions against Israel," said the memo, which

was handed to the UNDP resident representative in Amman. The appeal also called on U.N. to offer protection to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and to protect "their natural right according to the Geneva Convention."

The memo added that the Israeli attempts to desecrate Muslim and Christian holy places and the continued brutal measures against the Palestinians should call on the international community to "assume its responsibilities and uphold its obligations, and apply one standard on all issues under its jurisdiction."

The memo concluded that a final settlement to "this tragedy which befell the Palestinians and hit the world conscience for more than four decades" would only be achieved through a just settlement guaranteeing Palestinian self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil under the leadership of their sole representatives," the PLO.

Fund to finance small-size income-generating projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) has created a special fund for development and employment benefiting private citizens and groups by financing their income-generating projects.

A bank spokesman said that the fund would soon start offering grants and low-interest loans for projects designed to stimulate the socio-economic sector in the country, especially in the rural and less fortunate or less developed regions of the Kingdom.

"The fund will be financing small-size projects, like those pertaining to the socio-economic infrastructure, for financing the purchase of equipment and for training personnel in managing projects," the spokesman added.

He said that surveys and feasibility studies would have to be carried out in the first place to determine the requirements of each project before loans can be granted.

According to the spokesman, the fund will draw its resources from the Jordanian treasury, public and private institutions, grants and other sources approved by the government under recommendation from the Ministry of Planning.

The spokesman said that a special IDB committee had been appointed to manage the fund's grants and loans, comprising representatives of the bank itself and the ministries of labour, planning, social development and finance as well as the Vocational Training Corporation.

The committee, he added, meets once a month to decide on steps to be taken in the course of granting or approving loans and grants, for drawing up the fund's strategies or to determine areas which can be granted loans and grants.

The announcement of the creation of the fund coincided with one by the European Community office here which said in a statement that the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Community's bank for long term finance, was supporting small and medium-sized industrial projects in Jordan with more than \$12.5 million. The funds, it said, are provided in the form of a global loan to the Industrial Development Bank for relending in smaller amounts.

The IDB plays an important role in providing medium and long-term finance for small and medium-sized industrial ventures. Including the current loan, the EIB has advanced 37.3 million European Currency Units (ECUs) (\$44.76 million) in global loans to IDB, of which 3.8 million ECUs was drawn from the budgetary resources of the European Community in the form of loans on special conditions and of risk capital.

The loan, for 12 years, is being made available under the third EC-Jordan financial protocol (1988-1991). The protocol provides for 63 million ECUs from the EIB's own resources and, from the community's budget, 35 million ECUs in grant aid and 2 million in risk capital. The risk capital is managed by the EIB under mandate from the European Commission given on behalf of the EC.

With the new loan to IDB, the European Investment Bank has advanced 49 million ECUs under the third protocol, of which 1 million ECUs in risk capital. Previous financing under the protocol covered support for extension and reinforcement of the electricity network and global loans for small-scale investment by local authorities as well as small and medium-sized agricultural and industrial ventures.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "L'orient des cafes" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Miskarram Haghsodogs at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Christmas shopping arcades organised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation at Hotel Jordan Intercontinental (open 3 - 10 a.m.)

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture entitled "Personal Interpretation of the Concept of Tradition and Innovation in Architecture" by Jafar Touqan at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

COLLOQUIUM

- ★ Informal session with Ried Khouri on "Ghost Stories" at the British Council at 8:00 p.m. Khouri will discuss ghosts in English literature in the period from the 17th to the 20th century.

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Time to listen

ZBIGNIEW BREZNEFSKI, national security adviser to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, spoke on behalf of many Arabs when he analysed the situation in the Gulf in a television interview two days ago. In his analysis he identified the countries that have a vested interest in a major conflagration in the Gulf as Israel, Saudi Arabia (but not all of it), Britain and Kuwait (but not all Kuwaitis). Israel's right-wing Likudniks want the destruction of Iraq's war machine, he said, and do not care about Kuwait per se one way or another. Britain has too much monetary investment in Kuwait and sees only the sterling pound in its dealings with the crisis. The Kuwaiti government is so desperate that some of its members are recommending even the use of nuclear weapons to "liberate" their country. The Saudi dynasty is split right down the middle because its wisest members see their country occupied by a variety of foreign troops for the first time in centuries and their huge oil wells threatened with destruction. And for what, they ask.

The irony, as Brezneski asserted, is that all these parties want war with U.S. troops doing the fighting at a time when America has no real national interest in the whole mess of fighting a war. What Carter's former adviser is suggesting in essence is that the U.S. has been taken for a ride. One cannot agree more with Brezneski's diagnosis of the situation. One fails to see where and how U.S. national interests can be truly advanced through a war in the Gulf region. Iraq was once a friend of the U.S. and could easily revert to that status when the dust settles. Furthermore, Iraq is feeling the pinch of the blockade imposed against it, and has sent repeated signals that it seeks an equitable compromise even before the West turned militant against it and used the U.N. Security Council in order to adopt one resolution after the other against it. And if Iraq's mass destruction weapons are what is at stake there must be better ways to deal with that matter than resorting to war. Israel is twenty years ahead of Iraq in nuclear technology and, therefore, it is hard to believe the Israeli contentions in this regard. As has been stated before, any comprehensive agreement on the Gulf situation can — and should — also address the possession and development of mass destruction weapons in the Middle East region as a whole. All in all, therefore, there is really no need to go to war over Kuwait notwithstanding U.N. Resolution 678. The arguments in favour of pursuing the quest for a negotiated settlement are stronger and wiser. With Thatcher now out of the way from the British helm, President Bush has less pressure to cope with. The Israeli pressure is most damaging since it is obviously runs counter to long-term U.S.-Arab relations. Washington should listen carefully to what Brezneski had to say. At a time when rationality seems to be giving way to belligerence in Washington, here comes a man who wants to bring it back.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Monday described American policies with regard to the Middle East crisis as doubled faced and following underhand dealings. While Washington issues a statement deploring Israel's decision to deport the Palestinian from their homeland, it pursues efforts at the Security Council to delay any action that might condemn Israel's atrocities or provide protection to the Palestinians in the face of Israel's illegal actions, like the deportation of Palestinians, said Al Ra'i. Indeed, the United States, in collusion with the Soviet Union, is threatening to veto any resolution that would — an international conference on the Middle East or provide protection to the Palestinians, said the paper. Washington's denunciation of Israel's deportation act is a naive show of sympathy with the Palestinians at a time when it continues to support the aggressors against the victims and to provide them with the means to perpetrate their occupation of Palestinian land, said the paper. The Zionist lust for blood and for evicting all the Palestinians from their lands is backed by the United States which continues to provide the means for oppression and terrorism against the oppressed people. The paper said that Washington's condemnation of Israel's deportation was in fact an expansion on the part of the United States of its displeasure at seeing four Arabs escaping the terrorism of the Israeli authorities for which Washington has been supplying the means and the tools to obliterate the Palestinian entity.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily believes a military coup or wide scale civil wars will soon break out in the Soviet Union as a direct result of dissatisfaction with Moscow's current policies on the domestic and the foreign fronts. Hassam Ayeash says that the Soviet people are starving and begging for food from the West, at a time when the dismantling of the vast Soviet empire is drawing nearer everyday. Of course Gorbachev is considered a hero in the West for saving the United States and Western Europe further military and economic burdens as a result of the end of the cold war and confrontation with the East, on the one hand, and for destroying the unity of the Soviet Union, transforming the once super-power into a country of the second degree, says the writer. Gorbachev and his foreign minister have sold themselves to the West, succumbing to Washington's will and rubber stamping all the decisions that come from Washington at the expense of Soviet principles and long standing policies, says the writer. For example, Moscow has now given up its quest to convene an international conference to find a solution for the Middle East conflict and has backed the United States in its political and military stands vis-a-vis Iraq, he notes. A total of 280 million Russian people are now feeling the pinch as a direct result of Gorbachev's policies which were introduced under the pretext of perestroika and glasnost, deceiving the Soviet people into believing that they were a blessing, the writer continues. He says that these policies have resulted in total anarchy within the Soviet Union and a near breakdown of law and order in many cities, as well as disturbances that would end up in civil wars.

Saudi Arabia witnesses the rise of a crisis from within

By Neil MacFarquhar
The Associated Press

RIYADH. Saudi Arabia — Islamic conservatives are complaining about how the country is run and question the wisdom of letting hundreds of thousands of foreign troops into the country, Saudi and diplomatic sources report.

The sources point to several incidents in which the muttawa, or religious police, have cracked down on what they consider unacceptable behaviour in this theocratic Islamic state.

Conservatives have not dared criticise the ruling Al-Saud family by name, but a muttawa officer recently gave a princess a public tongue-lashing for the way her foreign maid was dressed.

A muttawa raiding party recently scaled the wall of a perfume manufacturer's mansion in Jeddah after apparently being told there were unmarried women and liquor at a party there.

The muttawa, usually armed with sticks but sometimes with guns, took along an Islamic judge who gave some partygoers jail sentences of up to two years.

Among the partygoers were several Saudi military officers and an interpreter who translated for King Fahd during U.S. President George Bush's Thanksgiving visit last month.

A diplomatic party in Riyadh was raided by the muttawa in November.

Un-Islamic behaviour like the consumption of alcohol, mixed sex socialising and immodest dress are particular targets.

Saudi Arabia's ruling princes must balance demands from the grassroots Muslim puritans who brought the Al-Saud family to power and the desire for

change among the educated elite, according to the sources. Some liberals have come to believe the presence of so many foreigners can accelerate change in a kingdom that has clung doggedly to Islamic tradition.

But four months after Western troops arrived, a backlash may be developing.

Underground cassettes criticise the government. They ask indirect questions about state spending and use historical allegories to make political points.

Underground cassettes criticise the government. They ask indirect questions about state spending and use historical allegories to make political points. One says an 11th-century Islamic king in Spain invited a stronger king to protect him against a third and the stronger king decided to stay. In other words, it is questioning whether U.S. troops will leave when asked.

One says an 11th-century Islamic king in Spain invited a stronger king to protect him against a third and the stronger king decided to stay. In other words, it is questioning whether U.S. troops will leave when asked.

The tapes cite U.S. studies during the Arab oil embargo in 1973 on how to take over the Gulf oilfields, lending support to a popular theory that Washington planned the current crisis for that purpose.

Questions are being asked about the billions of dollars spent on defence. Despite a high-tech arsenal, the Saudi military was not able to confront Iraqi forces when they took over Kuwait on Aug. 2.

That prompted government announcements that the army

had been ordered not to fight Iraq in order to avoid spilling the blood of fellow Arabs.

After Fahd invited the Americans and their allies to defend the kingdom, he sought a ruling, or fatwa, from religious scholars that Islamic law allowed the use of non-Muslim soldiers in times of peril.

"They couldn't criticise the deployment of foreign forces because the king wanted it," a long-term Arab resident said.

Like everyone else interviewed, he spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensi-

available. The press is muzzled and political parties are illegal.

"People who are Westernised don't have a forum to meet and exert pressure," the long-time resident noted. "The other group has heritage, institutions, a party line, so they'll always have an edge in the struggle." Diplomats say the religious element is not a focused opposition likely to oust the king, as happened in Iran in 1979. The royal family has "the power to put on the brakes," a Western envoy observed.

Warrior predecessors of the zealous — the Ikhwan, or brothers, who helped unify the kingdom in the 1920s — tried to rebel against King Abdul Aziz in 1929. He crushed them.

Islam's two holiest sites, Mecca and Medina, are in Saudi Arabia and a king who uses the title the custodian of the two holy mosques cannot ignore religious issues.

"How can you claim to be the custodian of the two holy mosques and bring in an idea that clashes with the Islamic sharia?" said an Islamic scholar, referring to the legal code of Islam. "It's too sensitive."

Princes in important government posts acknowledge that some questioning is valid, but said most critics don't understand the Iraqi threat.

"The people who are really against (foreign troops) have no ground to stand on," a ranking prince said. He claimed they had no effect on public opinion.

An Arab ambassador, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said, however, "Muslims in many countries think you have to go to true religion to find the answers to the problems they're now facing. The foreign forces woke that up in Saudi Arabia."

Economic frustration sparked Fez riots

By Stephen Hughes
Reuters

RABAT — Frustration over economic hardship, bleak job prospects and unfulfilled government pledges fuelled this week's riots in Morocco's ancient walled city of Fez.

"The frustration factor is like a pressure cooker that must let off steam or explode," said a veteran Western diplomat. "It is common to all Maghreb (North African) states and is aggravated by the pressure of population growth."

Eyewitnesses said few of the 20,000 rioters who stormed through the narrow alleys of the old city and into the modern town, burning and looting, were over 25. Some were only 15.

Many were from Kairouine University — the world's oldest, founded in the year 857 — or the modern Sidi Mohamed ben Abdullah University outside the city walls.

"Morocco is a young country. Well over half the population is under 25. And most of them are extremely frustrated. No prospects of jobs, not even with

university degrees," said Mohamed Alaoui Titna, a local trade union official.

He said riots in 1981 and 1984 also saw mobs of students and jobless young people venting their frustration in an orgy of vandalism and looting in Casablanca and inland cities.

Officials said at least five people died and 127 were injured in the Fez explosion on Friday and Saturday. But opposition, trade union and medical sources said the toll was at least 33 killed after the army moved in with tanks.

The demonstrators' main targets seemed to be symbols of wealth — banks, jewellers, fashion boutiques, private limousines and luxury tourist hotels.

They stormed the five-star Mervada Hotel, a tourist landmark overlooking the old city's battlements, and rampaged through the 200 rooms stealing television sets and setting fire to the curtains until it was reduced to a blackened shell.

The riots coincided with a general strike called on Friday by two trade unions, the Fed-

eration Democratique du Travail (CDT) and the Union Generale des Travailleurs Marocains (UGTM), which are linked to the main opposition parties.

But the rioters had no links with the unions or political parties, witnesses said.

"Some agitators may have been either leftists or Islamic fundamentalists from the universities, but the mass were just jobless with no prospects," a municipal councillor said.

Trade union leaders said they rejected government appeals to postpone the stoppage on the strength of a promise that wages and family allowances would be increased later this month.

"We have no faith in government promises. We demand something concrete," CDT Secretary-General Noubir Al Anasou said.

The unions want the minimum wage doubled and have a dozen other demands which they say have built up during a 15-year "social truce" agreed during Morocco's war with left-wing Polisario guerrillas over the Western Sahara.

Since both sides agreed in 1988 to settle the dispute with a

referendum under United Nations auspices, opposition criticism of the government has intensified.

Hardships have been exacerbated by an austerity or "economic readjustment" programme introduced at the behest of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in the mid-1980s when Morocco had a foreign debt of up to \$22 billion.

The Gulf crisis has also had its effect, increasing petrol prices. Food and services have risen between seven and 15 per cent this year but wages have been frozen, the unions say.

Officials say about 1.5 million of Morocco's 25 million people are unemployed but the unions claim there are five million jobless.

Whatever the reality, prospects of new jobs are bleak, although King Hassan has said he hopes to create 50,000 new jobs a year in the next five years.

The draft 1991 austerity budget proposes creation of only 15,210 new jobs next year when an estimated 350,000 school leavers will join the labour market.

LETTERS

The Gulf crisis, what next?

To the Editor:

THIS thorny topic is everybody's concern, not only in this region but worldwide. It surely is not the first or the last crisis but it is certainly unique in its timing when a new era started to dawn, the era which witnessed the hammering of last nail in the cold war period. A similar and indeed a global crisis was on the verge of eruption in 1961 when the superpowers threatened a showdown which was luckily evaded by the compromise reached between Mr. Mikoyan of the USSR and U.S. President Kennedy. The compromise included the lifting of the U.S. blockade on Cuba and its undertaking not to attack Cuba against the dismantling of the Soviet missiles in Cuba.

The tension associated with the Gulf crisis since Aug. 2, 1990, was relaxed remarkably by President Bush's declaration of his intentions to send Mr. J. Baker to Baghdad and to receive Mr. T. Aziz in Washington. The relief was felt and expressed in all countries. A few, however, were disappointed. Thus Mr. Kissinger spoke of his deep sorrow and concern over the return of some 400,000 U.S. soldiers safely home unscathed without leaving victims behind. Another warmonger even stated that Bush betrayed the world just as Premier Chamberlain did before the World War II.

It is hoped, generally, that Iraq and the U.S. will bring to a successful conclusion the forthcoming meetings. As President Saddam Hussein put it, it is substance that counts. It is indeed a chance which should not be lost.

If, God forbid, the meetings fail, the military option will be the only course.

Both parties are armed to the teeth and each has his argument and even legal cover. But the outcome of such an explosion will affect this region primarily and even the world at large.

The Arab World and especially the Palestinian cause will lose in a matter of weeks what was achieved in the last few decades. The impact on the world at large will result from the acute shortage of oil, now that the strategic reserves themselves have been partially

drained. This fund shortage will trigger a high increase in the prices of energy, products, services... etc., and the so-called recession will become a real depression which even now is being felt in certain regions.

If, as it is sincerely hoped, the meetings end successfully, a bright prospect will then await humanity and will crown the Paris meetings ending the cold war. It will affect standards of living and avenue to peace based on justice in this region positively. This is a goal which all of us have been waiting for the last 45 years thus it would be possible to:

- Reach a peaceful solution to the Palestine problem based on justice and the resolutions of the U.N. General Assembly and Security Council, in line with the manner through which other world issues were solved and away from double standards.
- Establish ways and means to achieve social justice not only in any one country, but between the rich oil countries and the rest of the Arab World.
- Update most regimes by a process of democratisation and thus end many archaic and outdated systems snubbed by their own allies and consequently live in line with the spirit of the era.
- Achieve a voluntary Arab unity, not of one region only, but of all Arab countries based on firm economic, social and finally political association.

These and other positive and useful goals can only be considered if a peaceful solution of the crisis is achieved. They are goals which have been our dream for generations, and are worth any sacrifice.

Mohammad Mathim
Barrister at Law
P.O. Box 9796
Jabal Lurwibdeh
Amman.

Preparing for a long stay?

By Rick Atkinson
and Molly Moore

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military is constructing a vast logistical system in the Gulf that will be capable of sustaining more than 400,000 troops for at least a year if President George Bush decides to delay going to war against Iraq, according to American planners.

Keeping such a huge force ready for combat until next winter would be expensive and difficult, but clearly manageable, the planners said.

To feed, clothe, shelter and arm the troops, the staff working for Major General William G. Pagonis, chief logistician for Operation Desert Shield, has grown from 300 in early August to 25,000 now. The logistical infrastructure being developed will be serving more than a million meals and delivering up to 700 tonnes of mail every day.

A fleet of more than 2,000 trucks has been assembled to distribute the nearly 80,000 tonnes of materiel the Defence Department estimates will be needed every month to sustain the force.

General Colin L. Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, acknowledged in congressional testimony last week that the 430,000 U.S. troops committed to the Gulf could be maintained for a year, even without fully activating the reserves.

Since Mr. Bush announced the virtual doubling of U.S. forces in the Gulf last month, some congressional leaders and military analysts have questioned whether the deployment could be sustained for more than a few months. Their worry has been that the president would be forced to "use or lose" the force because of overwhelming long-term logistical problems — a concern raised repeatedly by, among others, Senator Sam Nunn, Democrat of Georgia, and chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. Bush has referred to "a ticking of the clock" limiting the time left for a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis. But military planners in the United States and Saudi Arabia now believe that improved supply lines and depots, increased Saudi assistance and the experience gained so far from Operation Desert Shield mean that the deployment could be sustained at least through next year. Furthermore, officials hope to avoid some of the problems that plagued the initial troop deployment by substantially beefing up logistical support in the Gulf before the new wave of combat troops arrives. If the clock is ticking, they suggest, it should not be because of logistical concerns.

At the same time, keeping 430,000 troops in the Gulf will exact an enormous price, even if the logistical problems are mastered. Administration sources estimate that without a shot being fired, Desert Shield will cost about \$30 billion in the fiscal year that began Oct. 1, and the harsh desert environment will take a toll on a broad variety of equipment

and weapons, from tents to tanks.

Moreover, because most of the Marine and heavy army combat forces are already deployed to the Gulf, there are not enough fresh troops to replace those in the desert. Commanders fear that lack of rotation will cause severe morale problems if the crisis drags on beyond this winter, a consideration that could weigh as heavily as the issue of sustainability. To keep the force at full strength, the military's recently announced "stop-loss" policy of sharply limiting retirements and resignations may have to continue indefinitely.

"I think from a pure military standpoint we could sustain them for a long period of time and we could keep the troops over there for years just like in World War II," General David C. Jones, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs, said recently. "Not that it wouldn't be at a great cost."

Whether the nation has the political will to sustain the force for long is an issue over which military commanders say they have no control; instead, they are focusing on the physical factors needed to support the huge U.S. presence in the Gulf.

To accommodate the additional 200,000 troops and their equipment now en route, military construction units are expanding aircraft ramps and parking aprons, building maintenance hangars at airfields and ports and laying roads across the desert. Traditionally, the ratio of combat troops to support troops has been roughly 1 to 3; for Desert Shield, a Pentagon spokesman said, the ratio could grow to 1 to 5 because of the distance and duration of the operation.

Port capacity has been doubled in recent weeks, according to General Pagonis, who said his 2,000 trucks each make an average, one-way haul of 230 miles (375 kilometres) across the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia every day.

Perhaps the most critical supply need, except for food and water, has been munitions. Although huge quantities of bombs, artillery shells and ammunition already were repositioned in the Gulf region, military planners found certain stocks — particularly high-technology missiles — in short supply. To fill the void, the services are moving substantial numbers from Europe and the United States, while also ordering new production runs from U.S. contractors.

By last month, for example the army had tapped its European stocks for 1,000 Hellfire and 3,000 Tow 2 anti-tank missiles, 4,000 105mm artillery rounds and 900,000 rounds for 25mm machine guns, according to army officials.

In general, Pentagon officials said, munition stockpiles are nearly full except for a few categories of war reserves. To avoid dipping excessively into those war stocks, commanders in Saudi Arabia said, "live fire" training sessions have been limited — The Herald Tribune.

Benjedid

(Continued from page 1)

consulting and looking at many views.

The Egyptian leader said that Benjedid will continue consultations with other Arab leaders "in the hope that we can arrive at a formula to prevent war, which means destruction and devastation. Nothing has crystallised so far."

Mubarak, who has been more outspoken against Iraq than Benjedid, again demanded that Iraq leave Kuwait and restore the emirate's ousted government.

Benjedid was greeted on arrival at Tripoli airport by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and his second-in-command, Major Abdul Salam Jalloud, the official news agency JANA said. Benjedid was expected in Tunis later Monday.

Jerusalem

(Continued from page 1)

U.S. resolve in fighting a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for a Middle East peace conference.

"Of course the Americans are not happy about all that happened, including the timing,"

Zelman Shoval, Israel's ambassador to the United States, told Israel Radio. "But as we explained, every country needs to find the middle way between very important international considerations and ... security considerations."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said the United Nations and the United States should stop Israel's expulsions of Palestinians.

Bassam Abu Sharif, a spokesman for PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, noted that the decision came right after Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir returned from a visit to Washington.

That, he said in a statement, "is a clear indication that the Israeli government has been encouraged and is still being encouraged by the position of the United States to continue in challenging the will of world community represented in U.N. Resolution 242, which calls on Israel to withdraw from lands it occupied in 1967."

The U.S. State Department said the latest expulsion orders violated the Fourth Geneva Convention, which proscribes treatment of people under occupation.

"This calls for practical steps by the U.N. Security Council to protect the Palestinian people," said Abu Sharif.

The disabled are not second class citizens — Princess Majda

By Alka Raza
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Princess Majda, the president of Al Hussein Society, has stressed the need of creating general awareness on disability among the Jordanians. She has called upon the people to treat the disabled as equals and at par with them. They should not be treated as second class citizens.

The princess said that disability should not be treated as a stigma; it needs to be treated as an important social issue. "We still attach a stigma to disability and to having handicapped children, instead of helping them we hide them," she added. She warned that "we must bear in mind that it can be any one of us tomorrow."

Jordan has the second highest rate in the world of disabilities associated with automobile accidents, Princess Majda pointed out.

Princess Majda, 47, was talking to the Jordan Times on the eve of Al Hussein Society's annual bazaar to be held on Dec. 16 at the Marriott Hotel.

The bazaar, which is a fund raising event, is organised every year with the help of the international community.

Married to Prince Ra'd, Chief Chamberlain at the Royal Court, who is also dedicated to the cause of disabled, Princess Majda came to live here in 1963 along with her

husband. Since then, she dedicated a large part of her time to social service. After the Arab-Israeli war of 1967 she devoted her energies specifically to the cause of the disabled.

"I started social work very gradually but the 1967 war changed the whole perspective of my life," she said recalling the war.

General awareness on disability, she said, "has improved over the years but still quite a number of them are laughed at, and teased, so they come back more emotionally disturbed and frustrated," she said painfully.

In same reference she said that the media has an important role to play. "In our country television is the most powerful media, it reaches to each and everyone," she said and called upon the media to join hands in this direction.

She said that these issues may not be selling stories but they are as important as any other story or may be more because they are aimed at humanitarian cause.

Al Hussein Society, a non-profit voluntary organisation founded in 1972, runs the Amman Centre of Education and Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped. This multi-functional institute is the only institute of its kind in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

It has a school which serves approximately 150 physically handicapped students,

40 of whom are residents and 15 partially self-supportive youths in sheltered accommodation also attend the centre. In addition, the centre invites out-patients to share in full and part time education programmes.

Apart from the school, the centre offers vocational training for young men in the age group of 16-23 years in book-binding and radio/television repair. It also has special units for hydrotherapy and physiotherapy. There is a sewing section for the girls which is also becoming quite popular now.

Princess Majda, who originally comes from Sweden, said that in the socio-cultural context of the Jordanian society and in view of economic consideration "the problem of disability cannot be dealt with effectively by extending the services to the disabled in isolation from their families and communities. The rehabilitation programme for the disabled has to focus inevitably on education and enabling the families and communities of the disabled to take care of their disabled."

Talking on the concept of social work and development, she commented that voluntary work is the corner stone in the care, rehabilitation and integration of the disabled as proud, useful and productive members of the society. It is unfortunate that voluntary

work has not yet recognised as a way of a social service in the Jordanian society, she added.

She said that it was unfortunate and a cause of concern that "a majority of our volunteers in Al Hussein Society are foreigners living in Amman. It is all the more sad, when there are a large number of young men and women with education, skills and a lot of good will for the society in Jordan," she commented sadly.

She said that Jordanians, who are famous for their "kind heartedness, courtesy, and sense of sharing, have yet to come forward as volunteers for the cause of public service and assistance to their fellow country men and women."

While talking of the bazaar she said that the society is going through a period of economic difficulties. "We have just enough to finish this school year. If the funds are not mobilised, we might have to close the centre, which will be most unfortunate," she added.

She appealed that at this point of time, when Jordan has other serious national concerns to grapple with, a generous support from the Jordanian people to the cause of the disabled would go a long way. Princess Majda while pointing out at a group of handicapped children who had surrounded her, said emotionally "they just want to listen and know that they are wanted."

Lawyer spends holidays writing wills for Gulf-bound soldiers

WAUSAU, Wisconsin (AP) — Bill Drengler has the grim task this holiday season of writing wills for soldiers being prepared for duty in the Gulf.

It's an ironic task for a man who 20 years ago dropped out of the reserve officers' training corps (ROTC) and opposed U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war. Feeling he owed his country, he joined the national guard as a lawyer 18 months ago.

"The more I do this, the more it is hitting home to me that I may not see some of these faces

again if the Gulf situation blows up," a somber Drengler said.

He said he remembers the gripping images of the Vietnam war on television as if it happened yesterday. Asked if those memories made his guard assignment more difficult, Drengler, a first lieutenant, paused several seconds.

"It probably makes it harder," he said. "I had friends who came home dead."

Drengler, 41, is one of 17 guard lawyers in Wisconsin

assigned to advise soldiers activated for Operation Desert Shield, the U.S. troop buildup in the Gulf that followed Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

A United Nations resolution authorises the use of force after Jan. 15 if Iraq doesn't withdraw. Capt. Scott Meske, a military spokesman in Madison, said 300 Wisconsin national guard soldiers are in Saudi Arabia and 700 others are being trained for likely duty there.

In all, the United States force numbers 230,000, and it plans to

send about 200,000 more by mid-January.

Capt. Terence McArdle, assistant staff judge advocate for the Wisconsin National Guard in Madison, estimated his officers have written up to 2,000 wills for guard members, military reservists and their spouses since the call-up began in August. He said he has done about 200 himself.

"It does get to you in time. There is no question about that," McArdle said. "You realise the consequences that these people are facing."

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary Issue No 23

Drawing of: Dec. 17, 1990

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. **65737**
Wins JD 25,000

Holder of ticket No. **72178**
Wins JD 6,000

Holder of ticket No. **79386**
Wins JD 3,000

Holder of ticket No. **46733**
Wins JD 2,500

Holder of ticket No. **19906**
Wins JD 1,500

Holder of ticket No. **49207**
Wins JD 1,200

Holder of ticket No. **45515**
Wins JD 1,000

Holder of ticket No. **56395**
Wins JD 600

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD1,000 each wins JD 100
65738 65747 65837 66737 75737
65736 65727 65637 64737 55737

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 60 each wins JD 60
72179 72188 72278 73178 02178
72177 72168 72078 71178 62178

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 30 each wins JD 30
79387 79396 79486 70386 09386
79385 79376 79286 78386 69386

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each wins JD 20
46734 46743 46833 47733 56733
46732 46723 46633 45733 36733

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD150 each wins JD 15
19907 19916 19006 10906 29906
19905 19996 19806 18906 09906

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD100 each wins JD 10
49208 49217 49307 40207 59207
49206 49297 49107 48207 39207

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 80 each wins JD 8
45516 45525 45615 46515 55515
45514 45505 45415 44515 35515

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 70 each wins JD 7
56396 56305 56495 57395 66395
56394 56385 56295 55395 46395

Ticket numbers **54282 56622 19037 38919** win JD 200 each

Ticket numbers **40106 56777 59052** win JD 100 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH

6882 0248 3187 Win JD 20 each
8741 1951

2658 6772 9894 Win JD 10 each
1838 2813

623 257 522 842 936 Win JD 5 each

8000 tickets ending with **5** Win JD 2 each.

COVER PRIZES FOR THE LOTTERY SELLERS

40 covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in **848 574 046 950 440** Win JD 10

Winners of the grand prizes in the ordinary issue number **22** of Dec. 2, 1990

Ali Sayeh Unemployed - Amman Full First JD 25,000
Issa Ahmad Police Officer - Amman Half Second JD 3,000
Kamel Abu Matar Vendor - Amman Half Second JD 3,000
Jamil Maharmeh Unemployed - Balata Half Third JD 1,500
Nadim Harredd Student - Amman Half Third JD 1,500
Sami Al Tal Student - Amman Full Fourth JD 250
Basim Al Odeh Student - Amman Half Fifth JD 300

Next Drawing takes place on **January 2, 1991**

First eight biggest prizes are issued from GUVS headquarters.

'Dictates'

(Continued from page 1)

He has said the meetings will not be negotiations, just an opportunity to inform Iraq of the consequences if it fails to honour the resolution.

Baghdad wants the talks to cover the Middle East disputes, principally the Palestinian issue.

Iraq's opponents insist that only a full withdrawal from Kuwait will satisfy them. But Baghdad has never given a hint of compromise on this issue.

"When we call for the linkage of the Palestinian issue with the current crisis... we reaffirm that Kuwait is part of Iraq, the 19th province of Iraq, and this fact will never be changed," Monday's statement said.

The Iraqi News Agency quoted civil defence officials as saying half of Baghdad would be darkened in a war-readiness drill affecting millions of residents of the east bank of the Tigris River. It gave no date for the black-out, saying only that it would be held soon. Sirens would be sounded and "special security measures" taken, the agency said. It did not elaborate.

The agency said thousands of Iraqis were attending civil defence training courses. These covered first-aid, evacuation of the wounded and the use of masks for protection against chemical attacks.

Iraqis get nightly instruction on television about precautions against air attack by the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Gulf. In Washington, Bush said he still hopes for talks with Iraq but said Iraqi forces must be out of Kuwait by Jan. 15. Bush did not

say what he would do if Baghdad fails to meet the deadline.

"I think at midnight (on Jan. 15), if (Iraq) is not totally out of Kuwait, the U.N. sanctions must be fulfilled," Bush said.

In remarks to reporters, Bush said he was disturbed by Saddam's weekend comments that there should be a holy war if necessary to permit Iraq to keep Kuwait.

"He keeps making these statements that fly directly in the face of the international positions taken by the U.N. Security Council," Bush said.

Bush vowed anew that Iraq must not be allowed to profit from its takeover of Kuwait. "We've got an opportunity for a new world order but that opportunity will be lost if an aggressor gets one single concession. ... it's important that the man understand that we're serious about this."

Bush said he has heard from many people who say Saddam may believe the United States is bluffing, despite the deployment of thousands of U.S. troops into the Middle East.

"A lot of people who think they understand him don't feel that he believes we are serious. They don't feel that he thinks we will use force."

"Some tell me, as recently as yesterday... that he feels that Saddam Hussein simply does not understand the debate in this country. He thinks it means our country is divided and we can't go forward... and he's just as wrong as he can be."

Bush's demeanor seemed muted. He said in response to an inquiry that he was "calmer" than last Friday, when he lambasted Saddam for rejecting U.S. proposals for a date to meet with Baker.

"I hope these talks will take place," Bush said. But he repeatedly sidestepped questions on what he would do if there were no talks and if Iraq did not comply with the withdrawal deadline.

Bush accused Saddam on Friday of refusing to see Baker until too close to the Jan. 15 deadline set by the United Nations. He repeated his accusation Monday, saying again that the United States had offered Iraq 15 separate dates for Baker's trip.

Bush has said he wants Baker to meet with Saddam no later than Jan. 3. Asked what difference nine days makes — Iraq has proposed a Jan. 12 date — Bush replied:

"If I thought that meeting on the 14th would permit him to comply fully with the U.N. resolutions I'd be very flexible. But that's not possible."

Iraq Monday ordered 33-year-old reservists to report for military duty, its third major callup of reserves in recent weeks.

NATO

(Continued from page 1)

avert war.

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek said: "I think we would all like to see these talks get going but I don't have the impression that it is the United States which is dragging it

feet."

In other Gulf developments: — U.S. senators touring the Middle East noted hopeful signs for a solution to the Gulf crisis after a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Monday. But they said the threat of war with Iraq remains strong.

And although American public opinion may be divided over the timing of a confrontation, they said, it is unanimous that Iraqi troops must be driven from Kuwait.

The seven senators, all Democrats, spoke to reporters after more than two hours of talks and lunch with Mubarak. Their meeting followed one between Mubarak and President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria.

Fourteen former U.S. government officials, including top national security experts, said Monday that the U.S. should not delay military action much beyond Jan. 15.

"I don't think we can just sit forever and depend on sanctions," Thomas Moorer, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters.

Robert F. Ellsworth former deputy secretary of defence and a onetime congressman from Kansas, said Iraq "will not respond to anything except a credible threat of immediate military action. That's what will move Iraq out of Kuwait."

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Bulgarian Embassy in Amman invites all Bulgarian ladies' children for New Year's Party on Dec. 29, 1990 at 4:00 p.m. at the Embassy's premises.
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Jordan Times

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Sampras wins Grand Slam Cup

MUNICH, Germany (Agencies) — For a teen-ager playing for \$2 million, Pete Sampras was incredibly cool. He was just as cool when he collected it.

Sampras, 19, beat Brad Gilbert 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 in just one hour, 13 minutes to collect the \$2 million offered to the winner of the inaugural Grand Slam Cup Sunday. Gilbert pocketed \$1 million of the record \$6-million purse.

"He's got ice water in his veins," Gilbert said.

"It's always nice to be making a lot of money, but for me the bigger thrill is to win, especially against the top guys," Sampras said.

Sampras said he was donating \$250,000 to a cerebral palsy foundation. His father Sam's two sisters died of the disease.

"It's the least I could not when I win \$2 million," he said.

Gilbert said his million was going straight to his bank to pay off a loan on a new house.

Sampras, who became the youngest male winner of the U.S. Open this summer, said he felt he won "an exhibition with a lot of money," and that it could not compare to his U.S. Open victory.

Serving powerfully and hitting tremendous ground strokes, Sampras was never threatened.

He served 15 aces and broke Gilbert once in each of the first two sets and then twice more in the third.

"I was very confident. Everything I hit turned to gold," said Sampras, who displayed virtually no emotion after the biggest payday of his career. His career earnings coming into the tournament totaled \$1,103,725.

"I was serving very well, and when I serve like that it's easy to play the other shots. I am even amazed myself sometimes at the shots I take."

"It's been a great year and this is icing on the cake," said Sampras, who had lost to Gilbert in two previous meetings.

"I can't let this get into my head and make me stop working hard. The other guys are going to go after me more. But hopefully I'll stay in the top 10, or in the top five," said Sampras, who is now ranked fifth in the world.

"It's important to start the year well, and I want to do well at the Australian Open," he said.

Gilbert had no doubt that Sampras is going to be around for a while.

"I've bought some bad stock in my life, but I'd like to buy some stock in him. He is the guy of the future," Gilbert said. "He was drilling the ball."

"The bigger the situation, the better he plays. He just ripped the guys here."

"The guy just won \$2 million and he is not even excited. That's star quality. He is a credit to the sport. He's taking the game to the year 2000 range."

Gilbert said.

Having to face Sampras' serve was "depressive," Gilbert said. Sampras said he planned to work more on his clay court game next year and planned to play the German Open in Hamburg, the Italian Open in Rome and the French Open.

"I have to learn to be more patient on clay," he said. Gilbert said he didn't see Sampras winning a major title on clay yet, "but he can certainly win Wimbledon."

Sampras was a first-round loser at Wimbledon the last two years.

Victory for Sampras in the Grand Slam Cup proved just what the controversial tennis tournament needed.

The players who came to Munich for the cup were optimistic afterwards that, despite months of controversy, the tournament would become an important fixture.

"Right now it may not mean as much as it will in 20 to 30 years," said Ivan Lendl, who was the world's top-ranked player until August. "But the Grand Slam separates the men from the boys and it might mean something more in the future."

But while few would begrudge the likeable Sampras for winning, the cup still raised a big question mark over the rights and wrongs of paying players so

much for doing so little.

Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union won more by losing in the opening round — \$100,000 — than he had ever picked up at any tournament and two reserves collected \$50,000 without even hitting a stroke in the knockout cup.

Even more questions would have been asked, however, had the other American finalist Gilbert won Sunday.

The cup, an event outside the mainstream tennis circuit, was designed to decide the cream of the Grand Slam players. The tournament would have been a quarter-final and the third round of the other two and had got into the cup only as a late stand-in.

Gilbert also had a stand-up argument with American David Wheaton over a disputed point in the semifinals, picking up a warning and a \$5,000 fine for unsportsmanlike behavior.

Wheaton, who received the same punishment as Gilbert, admitted that thoughts of the money had added fuel to the row.

Talk of Gilbert also inevitably brought mention of the man he replaced — Andre Agassi who belittled the cup when he pulled out and whose name organizers hated to hear.

Kasparov takes time out, 21st game rescheduled

LYON, France (AP) — The 21st game of the World Chess Championship was postponed from Monday to Wednesday at the request of Garry Kasparov, who is only one point away from retaining his title.

Kasparov, who leads Anatoly Karpov by 11 points to nine, has now used up all three of the timeouts allotted to him. Karpov has one timeout remaining.

Karpov will have the advantage of the white pieces in the 21st match, but his chances of overall victory have virtually disappeared. He would need to win three of the final four matches and draw the other to win back the title he lost to Kasparov in 1985.

He would retain the title in the event of a 12-12 tie, and thus needs only one more victory or two ties. Karpov needs 12.5 points to win.

The victor earns \$1.7 million of a \$3 million purse, plus a diamond-studded trophy valued at \$1 million.

Of the 20 games played thus far in New York and Lyon, Kasparov has won four and Karpov two, with draws in the others. Kasparov has won the last three times he has played with the white pieces, including a brilliant victory in the 20th game Saturday.

He would retain the title in the event of a 12-12 tie, and thus needs only one more victory or two ties. Karpov needs 12.5 points to win.

The victor earns \$1.7 million of a \$3 million purse, plus a diamond-studded trophy valued at \$1 million.

German sports unite, declare war on doping

HANOVER, Germany (R) — German sports formally united at the weekend after four decades of division and vowed to fight doping among athletes at home and abroad.

"We can no longer tolerate officials, coaches, doctors and other workers in the sports environment who bear responsibility for doping," said Hans Hansen after being re-elected president of the German Sports Federation (DSB) Sunday.

He said another top priority was to integrate the five new states into all German sports.

The DSB opened the two-day congress Saturday by formally accepting the sports umbrella organizations of the five new federal states of former East Germany, which disappeared at unification on Oct. 3.

The new states brought a further two million members to the DSB, which now has 24 million members in 75,000 clubs.

Winding up the congress Sunday, delegates adopted a resolution on the doping scandal which has shaken German sports in recent weeks with allegations about widespread use of banned performance-enhancing drugs among East and West German athletes.

The resolution called on German sports officials to review nomination criteria for international championships, intensify

random doping tests at home and work for a solution to the drug problem on an international scale.

"We are going to fight violations with all possible means," Hansen told reporters.

The German Athletics Federation (DLV) said on Dec. 6 it wanted to scrap the German system of qualifying times and distances for international competitions which many athletes and coaches criticized as being difficult to achieve without drugs.

German qualifying standards are often higher than those set by international meetings.

Other measures against doping are expected to be taken at a special DSB board meeting in January after recommendations from an independent doping committee.

British athletics chiefs voted Sunday to press for a life ban on drug offenders in place of the current two-year suspension.

The British Athletics Board Council agreed to lobby the International Amateur Athletic Federation in a bid to persuade them to adopt a harder line next year.

"It was unanimously passed today," spokesman Tony Ward said. "So the strong recommendation of our drugs advisory group it was felt important a stand was taken."

Marseille victory wins praise from the boss

By Reuter

MARSEILLE'S 3-0 win over Metz Sunday has won rare praise from club President Bernard Tapie, who hinted before the game he was unhappy with German coach Franz Beckenbauer.

"We are playing again like a great team," said Tapie, a businessman who has vowed to make Marseille the first French club to win a European cup and three league titles in a row.

The Metz victory extended Marseille's lead over Auxerre, who trounced them 4-0 a week ago, to three points.

But a few hours before the match, Tapie had criticized his costly stars, saying they were wrong to think another French championship title would be a formality.

Tapie also said his players may have had trouble adapting to the German discipline of coach Beckenbauer, the man who took West Germany to the World Cup this year.

"If it takes too long a time to be back at the top, I might have to mix this German culture with something else," Tapie said without elaborating.

Meanwhile Beckenbauer threatened Monday to quit as coach of Marseille if he could not sort out recent disagreements with Tapie.

Beckenbauer said he was not happy with the way Tapie sometimes had an influence on areas which were the responsibility of the team's coach.

"We will talk in the next few weeks," Beckenbauer said. "It can't go on any longer the way it is. If we can't get the whole thing sorted out and it doesn't work, then everything has been a misunderstanding."

"It is certainly possible that I could be coming home again very soon."

Beckenbauer was speaking at a news conference before Germany's first international since unification against Switzerland

here Wednesday. The game is billed as a tribute to the "Kaiser" who led the Germans to their 1990 World Cup triumph.

Beckenbauer said his relationship with the players at the game he was unhappy with German coach Franz Beckenbauer. French league leaders were very positive and also praised Tapie for his hard work at the club.

"He has done so much in Marseille," he said.

ITALIAN LEAGUE

In Italy, newspapers were scathing in their criticism of Inter and Juventus, the top two teams who were both humbled by lowly opposition Sunday.

Gazzetta dello Sport dismissed Inter's 1-1 draw against Fiorentina as "squalid and insipid" and attacked the "madness" of Juventus who let slip a two-goal lead over lowly Cagliari.

Nicolo Napoli, one of the few Juventus players willing to talk to reporters after the 2-2 draw said: "We let ourselves be overtaken by a strange fear."

Juventus President Vittorio Chianano was equally unhappy with his team's performance. "We could have celebrated a more happy Christmas," he said.

"At the end of the championship we could need those points."

Internazionale stay top of the first division with 19 points, one ahead of Juventus.

The weekend brought little cheer, either, to national team manager Azzeglio Vicini ahead of Italy's European championship qualifier against Cyprus Saturday.

Milan sweeper Franco Baresi injured his thigh against Roma and is doubtful for the tie, joining an injury list which includes midfielders Fernando de Napoli, Roberto Donadoni and Giuseppe Giannini, and defender Luigi de Agostini.

Meanwhile Argentine superstar Diego Maradona, who has fended again with team management this season, returned to

Napoli's starting line-up Sunday declaring "it's Christmas — it's time for peace."

The Argentine did not play last week after the club filed lawsuit against Maradona, seeking damages Napoli said was caused to its image by Maradona's behaviour this season.

Maradona skipped practice early last week, but attended Thursday's and Friday's sessions. Napoli coach Alberto Bigon said that if Maradona showed up at practice by week's end, he could play against Lazio Sunday.

Napoli defeated Lazio 2-1 on goals by Careca and Giuseppe Incani. Maradona played the entire 90 minutes.

After the game, Maradona was greeted by reporters about his relations with club management.

"It's Christmas, it's time for peace, peace for the entire world," he said.

SPANISH LEAGUE

In Spain, Barcelona also attracted criticism, despite extending their first-division lead to six points with a 2-0 win over Cadiz.

"We played the kind of silly game that every team plays some time or another, but it wasn't because of over-enthusiasm or anything like that, but too much running with the ball," explained coach Johan Cruyff.

"The players' own wish to resolve the game too quickly pushed them into more mistakes

than usual," he said.

After the two Barcelona goals by Aitor Beguiristain and Jose Bakero, the Catalan fans invented a new chant: "Madrid, salute the champions," aimed at last year's title winners Real Madrid.

However, Real's new coach Alfredo Di Stefano refused to drop his sights from the title and proclaimed: "Real Madrid never gives up."

Atletico Madrid took advantage of Real's 1-0 defeat at mid-table Athletic Bilbao to move up into second place, six points behind Barcelona, by trouncing visiting Real Sociedad 4-0.

Barcelona took few risks against Cadiz, last but one in the league.

Manolo Sanchez scored the first two Atletico Madrid goals, the opener from the penalty-spot in the seventh minute and the second 25 minutes into the second half.

Juan Sabas netted the third four minutes from time and German midfielder Bernd Schuster provided the fourth in the final minute.

Sevilla, who beat Real Mallorca 1-0 at home, climbed to fourth place on goal difference from sixth last week. Austrian striker Anton Polster scored the only goal after 40 minutes.

Champions Real, who had clawed their way back up the table with three successive league wins, are now third.

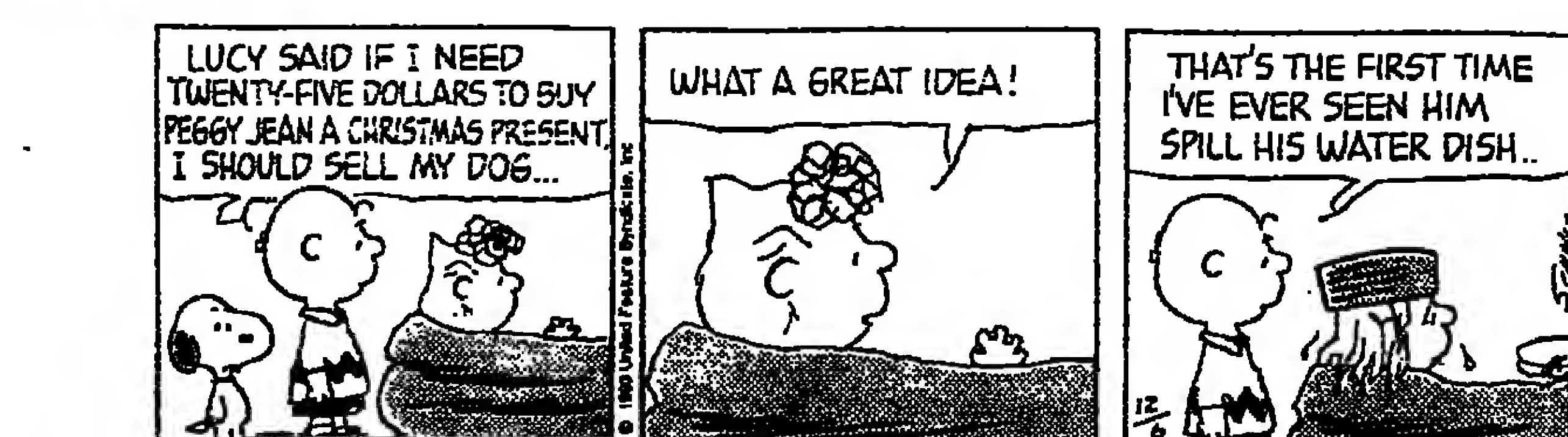
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY DECEMBER 18, 1990
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Show that you value and appreciate the talents and abilities of others and be willing to share the applause and acclaim to strengthen their confidence in themselves.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You find some associate is trying hard to make do what he or she wishes and you would be wise to go along with this person as much as you can.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) You have lots of projects to do and if you schedule them intelligently you find you can get them done without some potential confusion.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now find that you are an eager beaver to have a good time and its all right if you do not try to force others to go along with what you enjoy.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 23) You feel your family are making some mistakes or at least need to be aided in gaining the right point of view that differs from yours.

LEO: (July 24 to August 23) This is your time to show you value the good will of those usual allies by doing something for them that they would like on this day and evening.

VIRGO: (August 24 to September 22) Whatever affects you in the financial field requires more than ordinary caution now since you

find that you are the one who does want to be reckless.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are apt to go after what you want now without the approval without considering others who are also involved in this undertaking.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are apt to find now that you are the one who is limiting or delaying others and this is certainly not going to help you with projects.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A pretty demanding friend can raise your anger unless you realize he is under some pretty tense pressures and is just having a needed escape.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You want something in the outside world so badly you are apt to be too forceful going after it and alienating a highly placed person.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) So many new ideas are yours that you want to put them in effect far more quickly than is wise to make a point to study them more carefully.

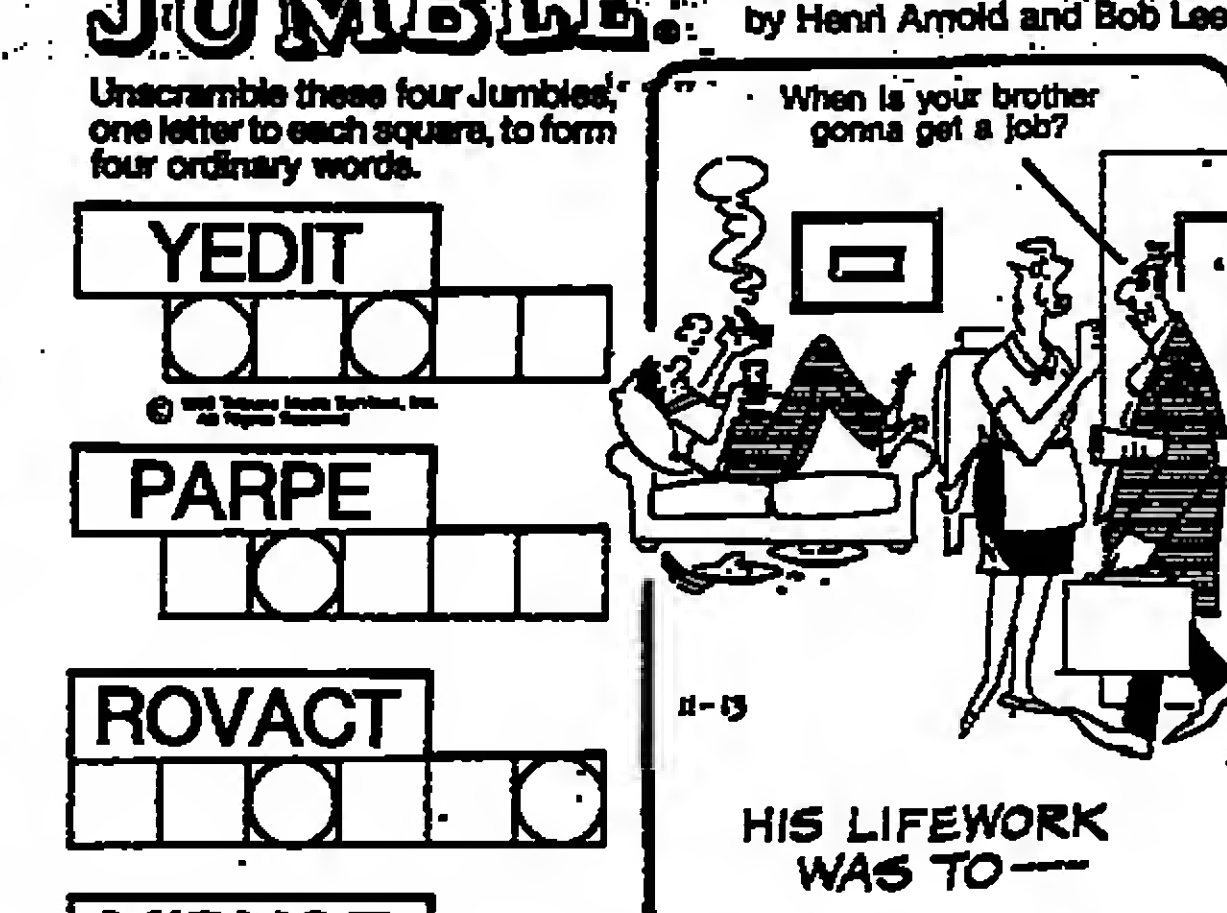
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever you would like to do that does require a neat touch and fine finish can be done very well by you this day so work with precision.

THE BETTER HALF



"When I was born I should have bought a service contract for my hair."

JUMBLE



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

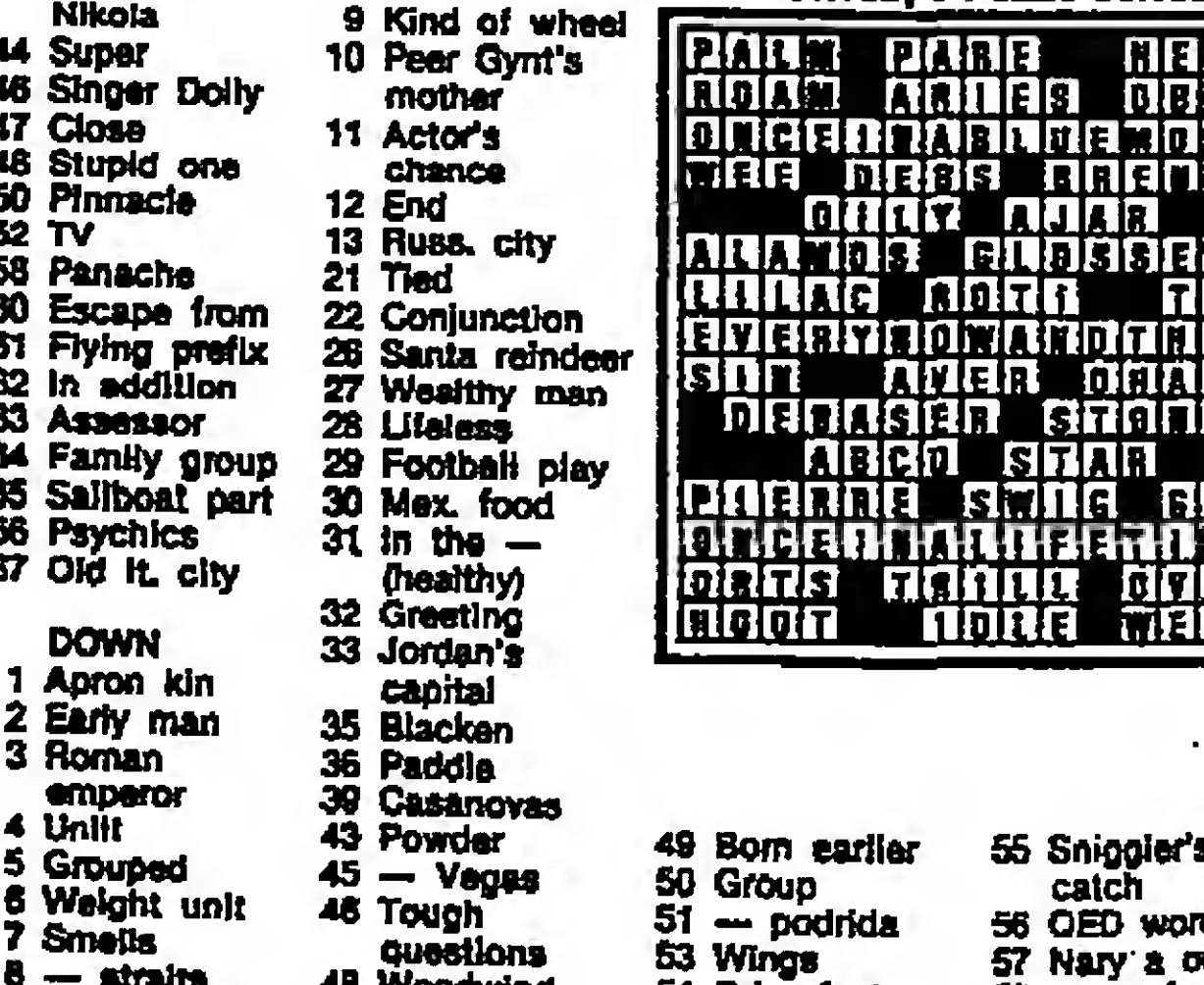
Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: DRONE HEDGE BROOCH HOURLY
Answer: What the baker turned comedian knew how to make—DOUGH OUT OF "CORN"

THE Daily Crossword



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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BEWARE OF EASY STREET

East-West vulnerable. North deals.			
NORTH			
♠ A K			
♥ K Q J 9			
♦ A 9 8 6			
♣ K J 7			
WEST			
♠ 10 7 6 2			
♥ A 3 2			
♦ 10 7 5 3			
♣ A 2			
EAST			
♠ 3			
♥ 10 8 5			
♦ K J			
♣ Q 10 8 6 5 4 3			
SOUTH			
♠ Q J 9 8 5 4			
♥ 7 6 4			
♦ Q 4 2			
♣ 9			

The bidding:
North East South West
2 NT Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠. It's human nature to relax when everything seems to be well in hand. But appearances are deceptive, as this hand from a rubber bridge game proves.

The auction was straightforward. After North's power opening bid, South knew where the hand should be played and got there via the direct route.

West cashed the ace of clubs and continued with the deuce, taken by the king as declarer discarded a diamond from hand. The ace and king

of trumps were cashed, and declarer was not overly perturbed by the 4-1 split. A low diamond from the table was taken by East's king. That defender reverted to a club and declarer was a dead duck.

If declarer ruffed low, West would overruff. If South ruffed high, West's ten of trumps would eventually score the setting trick. Down one.

It's easy enough to protect against the bad trump split and evil club distribution. Instead of cashing both high trumps in dummy, declarer should draw just one round of trumps, then lead the jack of clubs, discarding another diamond from hand when East covers with the queen.

The defenders can do no harm. If East plays another club, declarer can ruff low in hand, since the high spade on the board protects against an overruff. The ace of hearts is forced out and eventually declarer returns to hand via a diamond ruff to draw the outstanding trumps. Any other return makes the play even easier. In either case, declarer loses only two club tricks and the ace of hearts. As the cards lie, declarer also can get home by drawing two trumps and playing for a 3-3 heart split, but that is against the odds.

Japan passes extra budget

TOKYO (R) — Japan's parliament Monday passed a 2.28 trillion yen (\$17.4 billion) supplementary budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1991. The extra budget is aimed in part at financing a portion of Tokyo's contribution to the U.S.-led multinational forces deployed in the Gulf against Iraq. The supplementary budget allocates \$1 billion in contributions to the international forces in the Gulf and 20 billion yen (\$153 million) to aid Turkey, Jordan and Egypt, his hard by the economic fallout of the Gulf crisis. Japan has pledged a total of \$4 billion in Gulf-related aid.

TWA sells London, O'Hare gates to American, offers to buy Pan Am

DALLAS (R) — Trans World Airways (TWA) shook the U.S. airline industry Monday by selling all of its facilities in London and at Chicago's O'Hare Airport to American Airlines and offering to buy Pan Am.

Included in the transaction with American are six route authorities between various U.S. cities and London, including four into Heathrow Airport. The deal means American Airlines, already the largest U.S. carrier, will greatly expand its flight schedule to London and will become a major player at O'Hare, the busiest U.S. airport, where United Airlines has

been dominant until now.

The deal also gives cash to TWA's Chairman Carl Icahn to pay for a bid to take over Pan Am and to buy assets from Eastern.

American will pay \$445 million for all of TWA's facilities at Heathrow at Gatwick airports. Icahn said he made the buyout offer for Pan Am in a letter he sent Sunday to Pan Am's chairman, Thomas Plaskett. Icahn said he offered \$1.50 per share in cash and another \$1 per share of either a preferred stock or a promissory note.

There was no immediate response from Pan Am. With 150 million Pan Am shares outstanding, the offer appeared to be worth about \$375 million.

The deal also had major implications for United, which has increased its presence in London recently and helped cut TWA's revenues. United will be facing

American, much stronger financially than TWA, on its home turf in Chicago as well as in London.

Icahn said he was reluctant to sell the London assets but said TWA's revenues in London have sagged in the past two years and expected further deterioration in the future because of the competition from United.

Icahn also said he is continuing to talk with his bankers and creditors in an attempt to buy Eastern Air Lines' Atlanta hub and its Miami maintenance base.

Icahn said, "our current agreements with American will generate additional cash liquidity which will enable us to position ourselves for growth despite these extremely difficult times."

Robert Crandall, chairman of American, said, "the assets being acquired today will greatly

strengthen American's position in the U.S.-London market and will enable us to become a more effective competitor on both trans-Atlantic and domestic routes."

American is acquiring from TWA 40 takeoff and landing slots, plus three gates, at Chicago's O'Hare Airport, as well as gates at Orlando and Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and at Nashville, Tennessee, for another \$70 million.

"Acquiring additional Chicago facilities reinforces our already strong commitment to O'Hare and provides a long-sought opportunity to achieve near parity with our primary competitor (United) there," Crandall said.

Chicago is already American's second-largest hub after Dallas, operating 448 flights a day there, including its subsidiary American Eagle, a commuter airline.

U.S. agency estimates 1,000 banks in trouble

WASHINGTON (R) — Troubled U.S. banks will need about \$4 billion in government help this year and about \$5 billion next year, Federal Deposit Insurance Corp (FDIC) Chairman L. William Seidman said.

He estimated that about 1,000 banks are on the regulatory agency's danger list, although this was down from 1,500 two years ago.

The House of Representatives Banking Committee opens a hearing on the banking industry Tuesday to review a report from the FDIC stating that many of the nation's banks are operating "near or on the brink of insolvency."

Seidman said on NBC television's "Meet the Press" that the government is going to be about \$1 billion short in finding the \$5 billion it estimates it needs to help ailing banks next year and that the banking industry, not the taxpayer, will have to come up with the money.

"The banks will pay for it," Seidman said, adding that regulators were working on ways of raising funds from the banks to cover government costs of financial aid to banks whose loan portfolios have turned sour in a weakened economy.

The federally chartered banks' problems are in addition to those that have swept the so-called local savings and loan, or thrift, institutions, hundreds of which have failed under the weight of bad loans, mismanagement and corruption. The government may have to find as much as \$200 billion to bail out thrifts.

Seidman said regulators plan to crack down on banks which award shareholders with dividends even though their profits have vanished in a wave of bad loans.

Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, appearing on the same programme, agreed that U.S. banks were not "as healthy as we would like them."

Brady said that the U.S. economy was heading towards a significant economic slowdown but that a recession was "no big deal."

"I don't think it's the end of the world even if we have a recession," Brady said. "We'll pull back out of it again. No big deal."

Brady said the difficulty is in predicting how long the slowdown will last. But he predicted the economy will "return to a good, strong level some time in 1991."

Brady called on Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan to lower interest rates to help the economy. "I think there's ample room for further reduction in interest rates," Brady said. "I hope he (Greenspan) will do it."

Brady said further measures designed to help get the economy out of its downturn will come out in February, but will not include more taxes. "The president is not going to raise taxes in 1991, fiscal year 1992," Economist Henry Kaufman, former managing director of the Salomon Brothers investment firm, said he expects stock prices to drop and interest rates to dip to close to seven per cent next year.

Unemployment figures are rising, Kaufman said on ABC television's "This Week with David Brinkley," and could reach seven per cent next year.

Michael Boskin, chairman of the president's Council of Economic Advisers, said: "The best guess is the economy will be reviving some time next year."

"Whether we'll have a recession that lasts several quarters — it should be mild and brief if we do — or we narrowly skirt it, remains to be seen," Boskin said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, December 17, 1990					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	661.0	665.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	496.9	499.9
Pound Sterling	1280.1	1288.9	Deutsche mark	395.5	397.9
Swiss franc	445.9	448.6	Swedish crown	118.3	119.0
French franc	519.9	523.0	Italian lira (for 100)	39.1	39.5
	131.2	132.0	Belgian franc (for 10)	214.9	216.2

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.9330/40	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1555/65	Canadian dollar	
	1.4855/60	Deutsche mark	
	1.6770/80	Dutch guilder	
	1.2735/40	Swiss franc	
	30.74/79	Belgian franc	
	5.0575/0625	French franc	
	1122/1123	Italian lire	
	133.10/20	Japanese yen	
	5.5980/6030	Swedish crown	
	5.8300/50	Norwegian crowns	
	5.7280/7330	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	376.80/377.30	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — The Nikkei Index closed down 261.59 points, or 1.07 per cent, to 24,087.91, after hovering over the key 24,000-point psychological support level all day.

SYDNEY — Weaker offshore share markets and the Reserve Bank's failure to cut official interest rates sent Australian stocks to their lowest close in six weeks. The All Ordinaries Index ended 14.3 points lower at 1,295.7.

HONG KONG — Profit-taking drove share prices down. The Hang Seng Index plunged 73.77 points to 3,051.92 while the broader Hong Kong Index slumped 48.59 to 2,000.22.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed lower across the board on light liquidation and profit-taking with the Straits Times industrial index losing 16.75 to end at 1,171.58.

BOMBAY — Share prices fell sharply on reports that a broker is finding it difficult to honour his commitments, brokers said. The BSE Index fell 54.30 points to 1,188.54.

FRANKFURT — Shares fell 3.1 per cent on Gulf jitters. The Dax Index slumped 46.51 to 1,475.87.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed lower in light volume. Dealers said the Middle East crisis weighed on prices and buyers virtually deserted the market. The all-share SPI Index fell 13.2 to 911.8.

PARIS — French shares closed with heavy losses on Gulf jitters. The CAC-40 index ended down 29.29 at 1,606.23.

LONDON — Shares dipped in late trading in response to a retreat on Wall Street and Gulf worries. By 1615 GMT the FTSE 100 was 11.5 down at 2156.9.

NEW YORK — U.S. blue chips continued trading in a tight range in late morning, weak but off the day's lows. The Dow fell about 12 to 2582.

Africans tie debt crisis to damages of slavery

LAGOS (R) — A group of leading Africans want to force Western nations to cancel Africa's huge foreign debt as compensation for centuries of slavery and colonial exploitation.

The communiqué of the World Conference on Reparation to Africa and Africans in the Diaspora said a committee would plan a campaign to make Western nations live up to their historical responsibilities.

"A linkage exists between the debt crisis and the damages of slavery," the statement said.

The 11-member committee includes Jamaica's high commissioner in Nigeria Dudley Thompson, black British parliamentarian Bernie Grant and Nigerian businessman Moshood Abiola.

The continent's foreign debt is estimated at \$250 billion. Sub-Saharan African countries account for nearly \$150 billion of this amount.

Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida supported the call for reparation in a message to the conference.

"The services of our forefathers in the American plantations were unrewarded and unpaid for (while) exploitation of Africa during the period of colonial rule further impoverished us and enhanced the development of the West," Babangida said.

The conference statement said reparation, which included "acknowledgement, atonement and recompense," was vital if Africa was to end the vicious cycle of economic underdevelopment.

Africa's statement of claims would be made public in six months and the Organisation of African Unity would be asked at its June summit to take the case to the international community.

The conference communiqué said payment for past damages was not without precedent.

Algeria sees budget surplus and stronger growth next year

ALGIERS (R) — Fortified by higher oil and gas revenue from the Gulf crisis, Algeria projects a budget surplus for the second year in 1991 and substantially higher economic growth.

The national assembly began debate Sunday on the 1991 budget which sets spending 27 per cent higher than this year at 180.5 billion dinars (\$19.3 billion), with revenue at 192.5 billion dinars (\$19.3 billion).

The surplus is a sign of Algeria's improving financial health after oil and gas revenues, which represent almost all hard currency income, shot up with world oil prices after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Algeria is pulling out of a deep recession induced by falling world oil prices in the mid-1980s that left the state with a gaping budget gap from 1986 to 1989. This year's surplus was estimated at 16 billion dinars (\$1.6 billion).

The 1991 budget is based on an average world oil price of \$23 a barrel, roughly the average achieved in 1990.

Ali Kaci, president of parliament's finance planning commission, told Reuters Sunday the national plan for 1991 forecast growth in gross domestic product (GDP) of 4.7 per cent, up from 2.4 per cent achieved in 1990.

The budget also forecasts a sharp increase in investments to revitalise the economy, due to reach 55.4 billion dinars (\$5.5 billion) from 46.3 billion dinars (\$4.6 billion) in 1990.

Kaci said the budget law also included a radical overhaul of Algeria's tax system due to take effect in 1992, including introduction of a value-added tax (VAT).

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Court demands \$2m bail from Nadir

LONDON (R) — Asil Nadir, chairman of troubled fruit-to-electronics conglomerate Polly Peck, was ordered to put up cash bail of £2 million (\$3.9 million) when he appeared in court Monday on charges of theft and false accounting.

Nadir, arrested Saturday by detectives investigating his collapsed business empire, was given until Jan. 28 to provide the cash. The court also requested guarantees totalling £1.5 million (\$2.9 million).

It ordered Nadir to surrender his passport and report daily to police.

Nadir, a Turkish Cypriot-born businessman, built Polly Peck into a spectacular stock market success before its collapse three months ago.

He has debts estimated at £1.3 billion (\$2.5 billion) and court-appointed administrators were put in charge of it in October. Nadir was charged Sunday with 18 counts of theft and false accounting in connection with

the affairs of his company. The charges were not read out in court at his preliminary appearance before magistrates

but prosecutor Lorna Harris said they were sample charges involving about £25 million (\$48.5 million).

The Serious Fraud Office, which investigates corporate crime in Britain, has been probing allegations of irregularities in the trading of Polly Peck international shares.

Nadir has denied breaking the law.

Tunisia unions reject labour law reform, privatisation

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's trade union movement, in its first mass meeting on policy since 1985, has rejected labour law reform and privatisation of state companies.

In resolutions published Monday after a meeting of its 500-member national council, the Tunisian General Labour Union (UGTT) said reforms proposed by the businessmen's federation would have dangerous repercussions for the country's stability and for the balance between social classes.

Employer's Organisation UTICA says the present law is too rigid and protects workers who do not work hard enough. The dispute is becoming a major political issue.

The UGTT said after its three-day meeting, "the aim is to restrict the rights of permanent staff, shamelessly exploit other workers and reinforce the authoritarian influence of management... the national council expresses its rejection of this flexibility (in labour legislation) in form and in content."

The union said privatisation was part of a programme which had proved to be a failure, had led to redundancies in privatised companies and could produce new monopolies.

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CONCORD

1- HER ALIPI

2- BEETNE JUSE

3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

Sylvester Stallone

LOCK UP

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30.

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NIJOM

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PLAZA

The Fearful Road

(Arabic)
Show: 12:30, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:45 p.m.

Gorbachev fends off resignation call

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Monday fended off a call for his resignation which accused him of insulting his country in the eyes of the world.

The call came at the start of a 10-day session of the Soviet Union's supreme legislature which Gorbachev hopes will grant him tough new powers to save the country from collapse.

Communist deputy Sazhi Umalatrova called for a vote of no confidence in the Soviet leader. "Mikhail Sergeyevich (Gorbachev) has no moral right to lead the country any more. We cannot demand from a person more than he is capable of," she said.

"Having disrupted the country and divided the people, he goes to the world with outstretched hands," she said in a reference to aid pouring into Moscow since Gorbachev told the west he faced food shortages.

"Perhaps you favour this kind of charity, but I am deeply insulted."

The resolution was excluded from the agenda by 1,288 votes to 426. But the fact that 20 per cent of deputies backed the proposal provided an indicator of underlying discontent with

Gorbachev even in the largely conservative congress.

Conservatives accuse him of failing to take strong enough measures to shore up the economy and restore order in rebel republics, while some radicals say he is moving towards dictatorship — a charge Gorbachev denies.

Gorbachev wants the congress to approve his draft of a new treaty regulating ties between the Soviet Union's 15 republics and the capital.

But the treaty would still need ratification by each republic — approval that seems increasingly unlikely in key republics from Georgia to the Russian heartland.

Rebel republics gave notice of their growing resistance to his rule, declaring full or partial boycotts of proceedings.

Deputies from Lithuania refused to attend while rebel Baltic neighbours Latvia and Estonia said they would only stay for Gorbachev's report. Armenia and Georgia downgraded their representation on the congress presidium — its controlling body.

Georgia and the three Baltic republics have already said they want full independence from

Moscow and will refuse to sign any new union treaty. Gorbachev, for his part, says he will not allow the union to be split.

The congress is also expected to approve new powers for Gorbachev, intended to overcome deadlock in relations between Moscow and outlying republics and revive the economy.

The Soviet leader, his five years of perestroika now under question, has promised a new "coalition" government including politicians and technocrats from the republics.

Gorbachev adviser Georgy Shakhmurov told TASS news agency he did not expect Nikolai Ryzhkov, prime minister for the last five years, to continue in his post in a new cabinet.

"The thing is that every politician has some definite term and new people should come now," Shakhmurov said.

Gorbachev's most powerful rival, Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, had said he would not co-operate with any government that included Ryzhkov. The prime minister himself, accused by radicals of braking economic reform, has hinted his term may be coming to an end.

Gorbachev may choose to dispense with hard-line Defence

Minister Dmitry Yazov and KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov to win liberal support. But in replacing them he would also have to mollify conservative Communist supporters disturbed by the loss of Ryzhkov.

Conservatives and radicals appeared to agree on a need for tougher presidential powers.

"Our political regime should be more authoritarian," Moscow radical Sergei Stankevich told journalists in the lobby.

"The vote on the (no-confidence) proposal shows Gorbachev still has substantial support, so he is quite safe so far."

Yeltsin, who sat alongside Gorbachev during the first sitting, smiling and talking, told reporters during a break he had voted against the calling of a no-confidence vote.

Radical newspaper editor Vitaly Korotich said Gorbachev had won the vote easily, but the victory did not necessarily reflect the measure of his support in the country.

"The democrats are afraid of a Pinochet" Korotich said in a reference to the former Chilean military ruler. "The right are afraid of something worse than Gorbachev."

Taj Mahal city turns into ghost town after riots

AGRA, India (R) — India's Taj Mahal city of Agra has become a virtual ghost town after at least 11 people were killed there in the Hindu-Muslim violence gripping India.

Nearly 250 people have died across the nation since Dec. 7 in violence sparked by a dispute between the two faiths over a shrine in Ayodhya in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

Senior officials describe the violence as some of the worst since India gained independence 43 years ago.

In Agra, also in Uttar Pradesh, police spokesman M.P. Solanki told Reuters Monday at least 11 people were killed and 28 injured in Hindu-Muslim clashes since Friday.

Soldiers, paramilitary and policemen patrolled the streets and stood guard around the Taj Mahal, closed since the fighting broke out.

The soldiers turned back two Australian tourists who tried to enter the grounds of the sparkling marble masterpiece of 17th-century Muslim architecture.

The huge wooden gates were shut and an official said it was too dangerous to allow anyone inside the Taj, built by the Muslim ruler Shah Jehan in memory of his wife.

He appeared to be referring to fears that Hindu extremists might make a target of the Taj Mahal, one of the few popular destinations left for tourists visiting India.

India, whose foreign exchange reserves plunged in the Gulf crisis, needs the revenue from a tourism industry already hurt by separatist violence in another traditional attraction — Kashmir.

An indefinite curfew and heavy security kept most people off Agra's streets and nearly every shop was boarded up.

One official said the situation though under control, was still very tense. Police combed residential areas for weapons.

"Don't give any passes to politicians," the official told his subordinate, who was handing out curfew passes. Political analysts say the latest spate of violence is as much motivated by politics as religion.

Albania government opens dialogue with opposition

VIENNA (R) — Albania's Communist government, in an unexpected move, held its first talks with the new opposition Democratic Party after troops and tanks were deployed to quell riots across the Balkan state.

Gramoz Pashko, a Tirana University economist and Democratic Party founder, said he and fellow founder Sali Berisha met Prime Minister Adil Canani for two hours Sunday night at Canani's invitation.

"We discussed the current situation and events in the four towns," Pashko said, referring to unprecedented anti-government violence last week in Kavaje, Shkoder, Elbasan and Durres.

At least 157 people were arrested.

"He said he agreed that our party is distinct from these hoodlums," Pashko said by telephone from Tirana.

Canani had promised a decree would be published later Monday formalising last week's Communist Party decision to allow independent political parties for the first time since 1944, Pashko said.

He said the Democratic Party would probably register with the Justice Ministry Tuesday and was likely to ask for Feb. 10 parliamentary elections to be put back until April or May so that the opposition would have time to organise.

Albania, Europe's last monopoly Communist state, deployed troops and tanks last week when anti-government protesters clashed with police, burned vehicles, looted shops and attacked Communist Party offices.

The riots began after President Ramiz Alia bowed to student pro-democracy protests and announced last Tuesday that Albania would move towards

multi-party democracy. The Democratic Party was founded one day later at a huge rally in Tirana.

Albanian journalists said the unrest seemed to have subsided at the weekend although security forces were still on the streets of the industrial town of Elbasan.

Pashko said he and Berisha had told Canani that they expected those arrested in the riots to be given a fair trial.

"If they are to be condemned for vandalism so be it but the innocent must not suffer," Pashko said.

Chief prosecutor Chelmal Ljama told Albanian Radio that 157 people had been charged with illegal assembly, looting, attempted murder and assault and could stand trial from Monday.

Official media have reported at least 16 people injured, including six policemen.

Sunday's talks with Canani appeared to signal a change of heart by the Communist government towards dialogue with the fledgling opposition.

Pashko had said earlier Sunday that the government turned down an offer by his party to cooperate in easing tension and accused it of trying to delay the move to democracy and obstructing the party's work.

"We did not expect the meeting," Pashko said.

He said he and Berisha had complained to Canani and "asked him to create the conditions for us to operate."

These included provision of offices, equipment and telephones and access to officially-controlled media, Pashko said.

Alia said last week that reform was irreversible but warned Saturday that "neither the people nor the state will allow... criminal activity."

Group gathers signatures for Aquino to resign

MANILA (AP) — Opposition politicians claimed Monday they had gathered nearly two million signatures demanding that President Corazon Aquino resign.

They said they would submit a proposal for an electoral recall next year.

On Sunday, Mrs. Aquino brushed aside calls for her resignation before her term ends in June 1992.

"The call for the resignation

of the president has no meaning or significance but are figments of the imagination of people who thrive on illusions," Mrs. Aquino said.

During a press conference, leaders of the Cory Aquino Resign Immediately Movement said they had gathered nearly two million signatures, or 700,000 short of the number required by the constitution for a recall motion.

C. American leaders condemn upsurge in Salvador fighting

PUNTARENAS, Costa Rica (AP) — Central American presidents have agreed to condemn a new offensive by leftist rebels in El Salvador's 11-year civil war, Costa Rican President Rafael Calderon said.

"We cannot condone the Salvadoran guerrillas' unleashing of indiscriminate violence, just at a time when an end to it is being sought through dialogue and negotiation," Calderon told a news conference Sunday.

He said the Central American presidents will make a concrete proposal Monday urging the rebel Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front to resume peace talks with President Alfredo Cristiani's right-wing government.

Cristiani made a plea earlier Sunday to the other Central American leaders to condemn the 3½-week-old rebel offensive.

Negotiators for the Salvadoran government and rebels are meeting separately with a U.N.

mediator to try and resolve their differences since a series of face-to-face peace talks earlier this year failed to produce results.

The guerrilla offensive has dominated the meeting of four Central American presidents, who have also discussed economic issues and plans to invite Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to visit the region. The three-day meeting at this Pacific coast resort is scheduled to conclude Monday.

The guerrilla offensive that began in November and the rebels' defeat of some of the Salvadoran army's most elite troops brought the Salvadoran conflict to the forefront of the summit.

Cristiani has asked his fellow presidents to condemn the rebels for the renewed fighting.

Cristiani has said repeatedly that his government is willing to meet with the rebels, but formal negotiations ended in September without significant progress.

Rocket attack wrecks EC offices in Athens

ATHENS (R) — Two rockets, fired across a main avenue, wrecked the European Community (EC) offices in Athens Sunday and wounded two women passers-by, police said.

The 3.5-mm rockets, a type used by the Greek army, were fired across the busy Vasilissas Sofias Avenue in central Athens and caused extensive damage to the EC offices, police said.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack but the leftist November 17 guerrilla group, which has killed 15 Greeks and Americans since 1975, has such weapons and carried out a similar attack against a U.S. company in Athens last June.

November 17, Greece's most deadly guerrilla group, said it attacked the proctor and gambler offices in June to warn foreign firms against taking part in the conservative government's plan to sell off state companies to the private sector.

The same EC offices were bombed by another leftist guerrilla group, the Popular Revolutionary Struggle (ELA), in December 1989 and in December 1988. ELA then accused the EC of being an "imperialist establishment."

Greece's conservative government, which came to power in April, paused a tough anti-terrorist law last week to try to halt recent bombings and killings by leftist groups in Athens.

Police said the attack at about 9 p.m. bore the hallmarks of the November 17 Group.

"It's a miracle no one was killed," the head of Athens police, Simon Papadoyorgos, said.

Two rocket launchers were found in adjoining rooms in an empty second floor apartment directly across the road from the EC offices.

"The launchers were connected by a high-precision cable and fired simultaneously by an automatic timing device," Papadoyorgos said.

Romanian President Ion Iliescu and Prime Minister Petre Roman appear undaunted by rising unpopularity and anti-government protests on the first anniversary of the revolt that ended four decades of Communist dictatorship in Romania.

Roman, in a Sunday night television interview, dismissed rumours that he was about to be removed by Iliescu, saying they stood shoulder to shoulder.

"I am side by side with the country's president and parliament to maintain political and social stability, peace and order for the people," Roman said.

"I shall not be moved by irrational fury... let nobody count on cowardice from me."

Roman was speaking only moments after Iliescu, in a televised speech addressed to Timisoara, cradle of the revolution, defended the government against opposition claims that it had betrayed the people's hopes.

"The Communist totalitarian system was liquidated, an absolutely new democratic way was created, the multi-party system is consolidating itself, the freedom of expression and demonstration were legalised, free elections were organised, the peasants are getting back the land," Iliescu said.

Thousands demonstrated Sunday against his ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) in Bucharest and Timisoara, where a bloody uprising last Dec. 16 sparked the revolution that led to the overthrow and execution of Stalinist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Dissident leaders were hailed by the crowds and drew shouts demanding the resignations of Iliescu and the NSF government, which took power a year ago and won elections in May.

On Saturday, the six main parliamentary opposition parties threw the government a challenge by creating a united front.

One opposition leader, the National Liberals' Radu Campeanu, hinted he might win a role in a coalition government.

He said Iliescu had invited him for talks Monday.

Colombian army captures houses of rebel leaders

BOGOTA (R) — The Colombian army has said it had captured another major guerrilla base, crowning a week in which it opened a hornets' nest by attacking the headquarters of the country's biggest left-wing armed group.

The last of four linked bases high in the Andean mountains fell Saturday, General Luis Correa, commanding the operation, told local RCN radio.

"We have the last camp under our control," he said. "It is where the chiefs of the FARC (Marxist Revolutionary Armed Forces) lived."

After forcing down the lid on drug-related violence, the Colombian government last Sunday sent 2,000 troops backed by bombers and helicopters to storm the remote mountain headquarters of the FARC at Casa Verde.

The headquarters was a complex of camps equipped with schools, clinics, a printing press and theatre. Its fall unleashed the worst violence for months, with FARC guerrillas burning an airliner, killing police and attacking patrols.

The violence shattered an uneasy peace in Colombia since powerful cocaine cartels last July declared a truce in their bloody war with the state. It also dealt a blow to hopes that, with the cold war over, the government could reach a peace settlement with its veteran Marxist guerrilla groups.

The army captured three camps last week and seized the fourth, known as "Finco Frio" or "cold hollow," Saturday. The FARC headquarters lay in thick jungle 200 kilometres south of the capital, Bogota.

India, Pakistan to meet in shadow of communal killings

ISLAMABAD (R) — India and Pakistan, who nearly went to war over a Muslim uprising in Kashmir this year, try again this week to bridge their differences in the shadow of Hindu-Muslim violence convulsing India.

More than 200 people have died across India this month in violence sparked by a dispute over a sacred site claimed by both religions.

Last week Pakistan condemned the attacks and called on India to protect its 100 million Muslims from Hindu militants.

The issue is bound to be raised in three days of talks in Islamabad starting Tuesday between senior Foreign Ministry officials.

India was willing to discuss Kashmir, he said, but would not alter its basic belief that the former princely state was an integral part of the Indian union.

Pakistan, which strongly supports the Kashmiri "freedom fighters" politically, demands that the people of the region be allowed to decide if they want to be part of Pakistan or India.

More than 2,000 people have died in Kashmir since the secessionist movement burst into open revolt at the beginning of the year.

Roh: Moscow trip heralds new era

SEOUL (AP) — South Korean President Roh Tae-woo returned home from the Soviet Union Monday, saying his trip opened new horizons for trade and possibilities for peace and unification on the divided Korean peninsula.

"Now that there's open a wide road to Moscow, it is a matter of time there will be opened a road to Pyongyang (North Korea)," Roh said.

"There will be no wall in the world blocking the walk of our people," the president told several hundred officials and cheering supporters waving white South Korean flags.

Roh, the first leader in the history of his country to visit the Soviet Union, said he met Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev four times. The high point was the signing of a declaration of "trust and cooperation."

Roh's trip to arch rival North Korea's longtime ally ended a diplomatic chill dating back in

1904, when imperial Russia broke off relations with Korea. The peninsula was divided in 1945 into the Communist North and pro-Western South. South Korea and Moscow established relations last Sept. 30.

During the talks, the two sides signed agreements on trade and scientific and technological cooperation. Officials said talks on providing more than \$2 billion in loans to Moscow would be discussed in January.

Roh said the Soviet consumer market and the country's abundant natural resources open new horizons for exports.

He said the two leaders pledged to make joint efforts to establish peace on the Korean peninsula and in the Asian-Pacific region.

South Korea hopes its new relationship with the Soviet Union will end 45 years of military and political confrontation with rival North Korea and lead to

eventual unification of the peninsula.

"We (Roh and Gorbachev) confirmed our common belief that all things that were brought about by the cold war system — confrontation and war, feud and conflict and walls of partition — should be consigned to the past," Roh said.

In a news conference before leaving the Soviet Union, Roh reportedly said relations with China are "the last stepping stone for peace."

When the current trade relations with China become normalised "a possibility of war on the Korean peninsula, will be eliminated 100 per cent," Roh said, according to the South Korean News Agency, Yonhap.

Meanwhile North Korea's official press Monday sharply criticised South Korea for failing to sign a non-aggression pact during talks last week between the premiers of both countries.

Aristide poised to win Haiti elections

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Supporters of the Rev. Jean-Bertrand Aristide danced in the streets early Monday in anticipation of a big victory for the charismatic leftist priest they hail as Haiti's "prophet."

People turned out in large numbers in this poor Caribbean nation Sunday to cast ballots for what could be the first free elected government in Haiti's turbulent 186-year history.

The elections were peaceful, though hampered by delays in the delivery of ballots and the opening of poll booths that kept hundreds of voters simmering in long lines under the sun, and leading some to charge fraud.

No official figures were expected to be available until later Monday. But the consensus of some politicians and observers, based on partial returns and talks with election officials, was that Aristide would win a clear majority.

If no candidate wins 50 per cent of the vote, a runoff will be held on Jan. 20.

More than 800 international observers were on hand, seeking to assure violence-free balloting. A November 1987 election was thwarted after 31 voters were shot or hacked to death by thugs backed by the army.

The observers praised the behaviour of the army and police, who kept order and patrolled streets at a discreet distance from polling stations.

"This time the army has been equal to its task," said Jean Robert Sabatier, president of the Electoral Council. "We have just lived together a great day in our history."

On Sunday night, hundreds of people celebrated the victory they expected for Aristide by dancing in the darkened streets, playing soccer, jumping rope and mimicking the crow of the rooster, Aristide's campaign symbol.

Some Aristide supporters claimed the delays in getting voting materials to the polls in the slums, where Aristide has a huge following, represented an effort by holdovers of the 29-year Duvalier dictatorship to sabotage the vote.

Election officials attributed

the delays to logistical problems. "We've had a lot of help, but not enough," said Daniel Bernier, district election bureau director in Cite Soleil.

Some polling stations remained opened past the 6 p.m. closing time to allow everyone to cast a ballot.

About 3 million voters, about 85 per cent of the electorate, were registered to vote. The turnout wasn't known but was thought to be high.

Aristide, a 37-year-old firebrand who told the poor they were following God's will to fight for their rights, was one of 11 candidates for president. Haitians also were electing a 110-member National Assembly and local officials.

A popular uprising overthrew Jean-Claude Duvalier in 1986, ending the repressive dictatorship that began when "papa doc" Francois Duvalier assumed office in 1957. But Haiti has since witnessed a series of coups and failed elections amid a climate of terror fostered by former members of the Duvalier

family militia, the Tonton Macoutes.

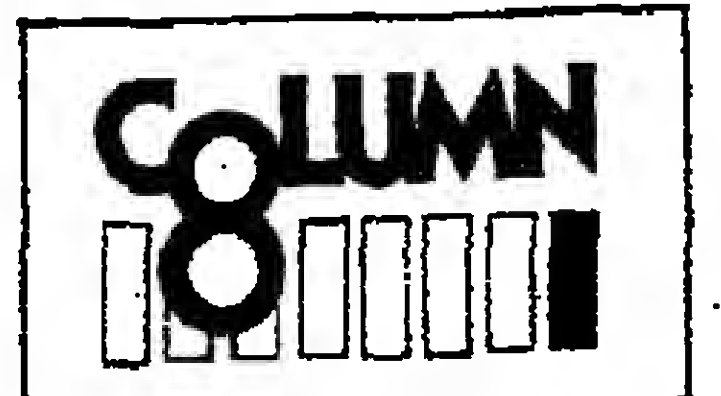
Thugs attacked an Aristide rally on Dec. 5 with grenades and gunfire, killing seven people and wounding more than 50.

Observers from the United Nations, Organisation of American States and other groups monitored the vote. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter toured polling stations, including the Argentine Bellegrade Secondary School, where the 1987 massacre occurred.

"We wanted to come here as a symbolic thing to show the people of Haiti that it's safe to vote today," said Carter, who was accompanied by his wife, Rosalynn, and daughter Amy.

The new government will replace the caretaker administration of President Ertha Pascal-Trouillot, a Supreme Court justice appointed in March.

Marc Bazin, 58-year-old former World Bank economist seen as the favourite of the U.S. embassy and the business community, was considered Aristide's top rival.



BBC to launch World Service TV

LONDON (R) — The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) said it would launch a global television network to try and repeat the winning formula it pioneered with its radio World Service. It said BBC TV International would offer subscribers around the world the same diet of drama, light entertainment and comment plus news bulletins and English teaching programmes.

The new service, to be sent by satellite, is to be launched early next year. The cost of launching a single half-hour news broadcast would be £6 million (\$11.7 million), a BBC spokesman said.

"There is a great appetite overseas for BBC television," James Arnold-Baker, chief executive of BBC Enterprises, said. "Add to that the World Service's global reputation for authority and reliability, and BBC TV International is set to be a major force in world broadcasting."

Official media have reported at least 16 people injured, including six policemen.

Sunday's talks with Canani appeared to signal a change of heart by the Communist government towards dialogue with the fledgling opposition.

Pashko had said earlier Sunday that the government turned down an offer by his party to cooperate in easing tension and accused it of trying to delay the move to democracy and obstructing the party's work.

"We did not expect the meeting," Pashko said.

He said he and Berisha had complained to Canani and "asked him to create the conditions for us to operate."

These included provision of offices, equipment and telephones and access to officially-controlled media, Pashko said.

Alia said last week that reform was irreversible but warned Saturday that "neither the people nor the state will allow... criminal activity."

During a press conference, leaders of the Cory Aquino Resign Immediately Movement said they had gathered nearly two million signatures, or 700,000 short of the number required by the constitution for a recall motion.

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